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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #9

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER







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ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST  
ROOM 801  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #9





No. 297

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment

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*Grand Council Treaty #9*

this 1 day of Feb 1978

*Squamish*

BRIEF TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Presented by

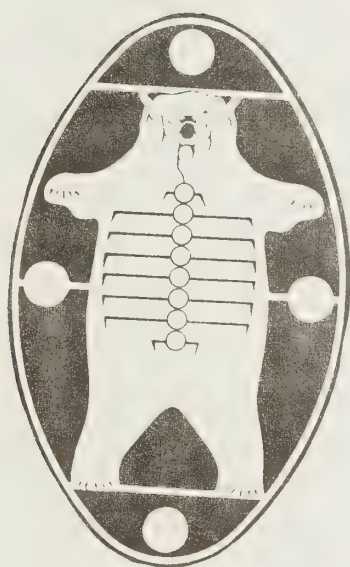
Chief A. Rickard  
GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #9

Moosonee, Ontario  
February 1, 1978













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Mr. Commissioner, welcome to the homeland of the James Bay Cree. When we, the Nishnawbe-Aski of Treaty #9 appeared before you in Sioux Lookout, on November 7th, 1977, we spent considerable time discussing the procedures and the possible role of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

We do not intend today to make any specific technical recommendations, nor to provide you with a detailed blueprint of the future of Northern Ontario. You will see that blueprint develop its shape from the people, as you travel across our magnificent land. Scientific documents, and concrete plans for our programs of local self-government, will be forthcoming during the main process of the Commission's hearings.

It would be a serious oversight on our part, if we did not take this opportunity to share with you our feelings about the most important element in your Inquiry, the human element. Your staff have been given detailed research papers on the pros and cons of economic development in our North. Surely, Mr. Commissioner, your inquiry must be much more than just an investigation into such isolated areas as economic, community development and environmental protection. The human element is the key to the future of the North. It inter-relates all aspects of any society, and without this key a realistic long-term blueprint for comprehensive management is impossible. It is the danger of omitting this human element that makes the actual process of your Inquiry more important, or at least as important, as the final report that you will make to the Ontario Government. Your Commission, Mr. Justice Hartt, to ensure this vital element, must have an all encompassing role.





We hope the Commission will be responsible to all the peoples of Northern Ontario, and if necessary, capable of making a stand. On this role will depend the very quality of human life in our land for generations to come.

As a major part of that human element, we ask that you never, even for a moment, lose sight of our people, the Nishnawbe-Aski, and of our total relationship with our land. We are a people, unique, vibrant and very much alive. Ignorance of our culture throughout Canadian history amounts to a kind of criminal negligence against humanity. We have made a tremendous contribution to the history of our country. Indeed, your infant colony would never have survived economically without the skills, kindness and generosity of our ancestors. This past contribution is only the beginning of what we can offer the rich cultural mosaic that exists in Canada. Many of your people are "returning to the land". In this, and as a result of our struggle as a people to control our own destiny, we can offer many philosophical and concrete values. We know from our ancient heritage and our tragic encounter with yourselves, that we have acquired much wisdom regarding the quality of life. Is this wisdom always to be ignored, because supposedly we have not contributed to the general society of Canada? It is true that we have contributed little to the pollution of the water, to the destruction of the forests, to the depletion of the wildlife and to the divisions between people. Whether your people understand it or not, the whole fabric of Canadian society, as reflected in your literature and arts, is inter-related with the land, our land, that we have understood and lived with for many centuries. With control of the decision-making processes affecting our lives, we know that we can contribute positively to all areas of Euro-Canadian life.



Mr. Commissioner, you might well wonder how we can insist on the right to determine our own kind of government within the Canadian Nation. We believe that it is only by achieving total self-determination that we can effectively and rightfully participate in the Canadian mosaic.

It is ludicrous to suggest that our lives can be separated into neat cultural, historical, social, economic, political, environmental and spiritual compartments, each divorced from the other. The growth of cultural understanding and diversity within Canada requires an acceptance of all the aspects of a people's culture. Accepting only those parts that fit comfortably, within one's own cultural framework, is not true understanding and appreciation. Only through our own self-determination and our own self-respect can we present the values of our heritage to others.

The general reaction to the Declaration of the Nishnawbe-Aski has been one of fear and resentment. Your people are ignorant of what our independent relationship will mean to themselves, and because of this ignorance there is much hostility. From statements that have been made thus far in your preliminary hearings, it seems a great many people fear that in determining our own future, we would resist so-called "development" despite the needs of others. For this reason they feel the Nishnawbe-Aski are not to be trusted with power. Once again we will state, that we see nothing wrong with using our great natural resources for the betterment of all mankind. However, these resources must be developed for the greater good of the people, and not for the short-term benefit of a few multi-national corporations, at an impossible cost to all our future generations.

This lack of trust on the part of the dominant society is always evident in colonial situations. The dependent people





are only granted a measure of self-determination after the dominant society is sure the subjugated peoples are totally assimilated. To the discomfort of the general public, our people are still, despite endless tragedy, a long way from assimilation. Furthermore, we are finding the "liberal bleeding-heart" interpretation of the Canadian Mosaic increasingly difficult to live with.

Mr. Commissioner, our people want to reverse this colonial pattern used in dealing with aboriginal people. We want to propose a serious alternative to either passive resignation or cultural genocide, neither of which is acceptable to us, nor in the best interests of the Canadian people. What we are calling for is a recognition of the existing reality, that Northern Ontario is a divided community with stark inequalities between the races. Equality can only be achieved and secured if our Nishnawbe-Aski are freed from this suppressive relationship, and guaranteed the right to develop as a free and responsible part of the larger society. Our people will no longer quietly accept attitudes which place us second, attitudes such as that of the Dryden District Chamber of Commerce, in particular, their statement that: "Native rights will have to be dealt with fairly and justly in the context of future development". (1) On the contrary, future development must be judged within the context of aboriginal rights. Moreover, we require a firm power base of legislation, from which we can insist on the recognition and acceptance of our special status as a people with aboriginal rights. This recognition will facilitate the coming together of our various societies, in the spirit of equality. It will eliminate racist and dependent relationships.

With a strong Nishnawbe-Aski power base in our North, there would exist a real possibility of recovering power from

(1) See Appendix





Toronto for all Northern peoples. Our people, with their special status, have a unique right to self-determination. It is a tragic irony that our people, who suffer from the colonialistic attitude of the Canadian state, are witnesses to the helplessness of our Northern neighbours who are under the thumb of the south. Unfortunately, it seems to take a great deal of tragedy, as our people know all too well, to wipe out the subjugated people's illusions about the intentions of the dominant.

The very real need for Northern independence is exemplified by the way that the areas of social services and natural resources are manipulated in the "South".

The social services field surely deals the most closely with the fundamental values of each society that it represents. In the various submissions presented to your Commission it became evident, that there is a pressing need for a re-assessment of the decision-making processes in the field of Northern social services. (2) We have all heard the presentations on: inadequate education facilities, irrelevant curriculums, a lack of senior citizen accommodations, few recreation units, and of the very tragic situation of many of our Northern children. We agree with the general theme of these submissions, that more "South" devised services are not as necessary as actually attacking the roots of the Northern issues. We know that many of our present tragedies have evolved from the disintegration of our traditional way of life. How can your people possibly understand what we need in social services, when they do not, as yet, understand our culture? The social services area of development is the most human, and we agree with Ms. Timpson's Sioux lookout presentation, that it is "mandatory that human services be considered before

(2) See Appendix



development, not after". Not withstanding, where our people are concerned, we insist on being involved in all considerations.

On studying the presentations that have been made to your Inquiry we found that over half of the reports were against totally uncontrolled development. (3) It seems that many share our intense feelings of concern about what has happened, and what can still happen to our sacred land. What is alarming is the number of papers put forward that advocate a compromise regarding the exploitation of our natural resources.

(4) These groups wish to proceed with the presently proposed projects under the existing Environmental Assessment Act of 1975, and leave the decisions of your Commission only for future developments. It only takes a glance at such presentations as those of the AMOG, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Inc., to see examples of past and existing land abuses. We do not know how any group of people can be so short-sighted as to advocate any non-renewable, one industry ventures such as Onakawana, which has a projected life-span of approximately forty years under ideal economic conditions. These groups are so very desperate for employment that they feel that "band-aid" solutions are necessary. There is enough evidence on hand to prove that the "boom and bust" cycle will simply continue from such projects, and that more than likely there will be great environmental damage. In Onakawana Development Limited's own words:

Environmentally, the area is remote and little is known on the forest, soil and wildlife resources. It is believed that on-going progressive drainage and reclamation work would enhance the area. (5)

How the Onakawana people can "believe" anything about an area that is obviously "remote" and of which "little is known" to them, is amazing. However, we do know our land, and we know it could easily be destroyed by the practice of such ill-planned





development. We, Mr. Commissioner, and those who feel as we do, need time during your Inquiry to document our knowledge. It was noted by the Newsletter, North Of The 50, that even the Ministry of Natural Resources, the licensing agent for projects like Onakawana, has admitted in its Ear Falls presentation that there are "unavoidable conflicts between certain policies relating, for example, to the wish to protect natural resources while at the same time wishing to develop resources". (6) Such contradictions are even more evident on page five of the Ministry of Natural Resources' November 1, 1977 submission to your Inquiry. The Ministry indicated that it is working on the solutions for these conflicts. Meanwhile, all our future generations are being ignored, as risky development proceeds unchecked by all but the present dubious Environmental Assessment Act. The Ministry of Natural Resources has further stated, that since "the Environment Act has not been in effect long enough to adequately assess its performance... the Commission may have difficulty in determining any possible inadequacies of the Act ... ". (7) Our people know that the Act is inadequate. This Act does not provide for the policing of large scale developments, nor for the fragility of our Northern environment. We are supported by certain submissions that question the degree of protection that the Act ensures. (8) This degree is very important in light of the Ministry's actual capacity to ensure the enforcement of this Act.

Mr. Commissioner, in order to save our land from further abuse, to document our knowledge, and to really look into the standards and application of the Environmental Assessment Act, within world-wide practices and the latest technology of man; we request again, that you strongly recommend to the Ontario Provincial Government that it hold a moratorium on all proposed development for at least the life-time of your Commission. Your records of the preliminary presentations of numerous associations,

(6), (7), (8), See Appendix





and individuals will demonstrate their support for our position to varying degrees. Without such a moratorium the Ontario Government will be demonstrating that your Commission is only intended to be another political manoeuvre. Our people realize that a moratorium could hurt the economy of the Northern Euro-Canadian communities, but the damage would only be short term, as compared to your society's long history of economic mistakes. We hope, that with a carefully planned comprehensive development scheme, which recognizes our prior treaty and aboriginal rights, that we can end this very real threat to our environment, and the perpetual "boom and bust" cycle of the North.

The Environmental Assessment Act only provides for a southern industrial and urban society; it was not drafted with the fragile environment of our North in mind. Most important, it was developed without the input of our people, the majority of the inhabitants north of the fiftieth parallel. The Act contains no recognition of our culture, our economic style, nor the very real conceptual differences that exist between our society and your industrial society.

All human concerns aside, the very mechanism of the Act is flawed, rendering its function futile. Neither the Act, nor the environmental regulations, contain any criteria upon which the Environmental Assessment Board may make a decision. The Board is left to its own devices to decide what impact is significant, if any. Even if the Board should find a significant impact, that aspect of the environment suffering the impact may be sacrificed under the loose terminology of the Act. The definition of the "environmental assessment" found in section 5 (3) of the Act appears very wide in scope:



An environmental assessment submitted to the Minister pursuant to subsection 1 shall consist of:

- (a) a description of the purpose of the undertaking;
- (b) a description of and a statement of the rationale for,
  - (i) the undertaking
  - (ii) the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking, and
  - (iii) the alternatives to the undertaking;
- (c) a description of,
  - (i) the environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly,
  - (ii) the effects that will be caused or that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment, and
  - (iii) the actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment,

by the undertaking, the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking; and,

- (d) an evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking, the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking and the alternatives to the undertaking. (1975, c.69, s.5.)

To return to human concerns, the Act does not provide funding for those who may wish to participate in the environmental hearings. Many groups, and indeed, our own people do not have the money for a lengthy interaction, nor to hire available but





costly expertise. Mr. David Estrin, a lawyer specializing in environmental law comments on this dilemma; he states;

If funding is available, then public participation which has often been strident and poorly informed, can begin to use information in an intelligent, and sophisticated way, and to deal with both public and private agencies on a level of technical and professional equality. In the absence of such funding the public would in many cases be better off without the hearing. At least it would not be misled into the believing that the "public interest" was being considered, in what realistically is now a proponent-oriented hearing process. (9)

To make matters worse, the Environment Assessment Act has been structured in a very confusing way; it is so loose that some projects with environmental hazards are not actually covered. Another dimension to this confusion is the difficulty of determining which Act should be applied--the Environmental Assessment Act or the Environmental Protection Act. Even David Caverly, Chairman of the Environmental Assessment Board recognizes the confusion over environmental legislation in Ontario. To quote from an article in the Globe and Mail on November 30, 1977:

The Ontario Government must make up its mind about the extent to which projects with possible environmental hazards will be scrutinized at public hearings, says the civil servant responsible for the hearings.

David Caverly, Chairman of the Environmental Assessment Board, suggested in an interview that "grey areas" in legislation are at least partly responsible for public anger and suspicion over hearings on a proposal for an industrial-waste disposal plant near the Lake Erie village of Nanticoke.

"I don't want problems like Nanticoke," Mr. Caverly



said. "I need a clear mandate so there is no question concerning the role of the Board."

There is something very wrong, Mr. Commissioner, when even the Chairman of the Environmental Assessment Board is asking for a "clear mandate".

As we intend to make a technical, and truly documented submission regarding the environmental assessment issue, during the main process of your Inquiry, we will close now with a quotation. The Science Council of Canada in Northward Looking: A Strategy and a Science Policy for Northern Development (Report No.26, August 1977) supports our position on the question of environmental assessment. The Council's review of six projects in the North has shown that:

1. There has been a tendency for the interests of the major actors (i.e., government and industry) to over ride the interests of the other actors.
  2. Northern residents have tended to be excluded from the assessment system.
  3. Environmental issues have tended to be addressed only after the project was agreed upon.
  4. Social issues have been narrowly defined, often in terms of job opportunities in a wage economy.
  5. Economic issues have been paramount, but the traditional price system and relatively short time-frame of these issues have sometimes conflicted with long term national benefits. This reflects the fact that economic considerations, notably the cost of money, often impel major actors to take actions before an adequate data base can be developed.
- Timing the assessment process, so that the pacing of the constituent elements of northern development is orderly, is therefore critically important.





The Science Council believes that the assessment process for northern projects is an important component of northern policy. Science and technology should play an important role in these assessments. Some general principles apply for such assessments:

1. All affected parties must have the opportunity to participate fully in the assessment, that is, the process must be balanced. (Emphasis in original).
2. Assessments must be timed so that they take place before the decision to proceed is taken. (There is still the very important task of implementation and monitoring. The same criterion of balanced participation also applies here).
3. Assessments must be conducted in the context of other related projects. A single proposal, for instance, may have a relatively minor effect. However, if it is just one of many, the cumulative effect may be much greater.
4. Assessments must have broad terms of reference. It is not enough, for instance, merely to consider whether there will be environmental effects. Each affected party must be able to determine in what ways the project may affect its interests and how, if modified, the project might have less harmful or more beneficial impact.
5. Government is responsible for ensuring that affected parties have adequate opportunity to make their needs known, that no projects are undertaken which do not meet basic economic and environmental standards and that, from a long term point of view, the most desirable rate of non-renewable resource depletion is determined. This requires a capacity for independent data gathering and the independent assessment and evaluation of data belonging to others.



6. There must, as a general principle, be open access to information. While there are occasionally good reasons for keeping some data or plans confidential, too often this is done routinely.
7. There must be independent bodies to identify areas in need of technology assessment, as well as independent bodies to conduct the assessments.
8. Where unrefered scientific work supports a project proposal there must be opportunities for a credible validating procedure. The adversary approach is useful in this context, as was demonstrated at the hearings of the National Energy Board and Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. The competing applications of Foothills and Canadian Arctic Gas incidentally produced a much more thorough examination of the pipeline proposal than if there had been only one application.

We look forward to exploring with you over the course of your Commission a new environmental protection regime, one which safeguards our land, our economy, and guarantees our participation in all projects affecting our people, the Nishnawbe-Aski.

We know that our basic economy has been so eroded by the dominant society, with nothing serious offered to replace it, that right now we have little to contribute to the economy of Northern Ontario. We have become largely dependent on your society, not because we wished it, but because all the power to make decisions affecting our lives has been taken over by your people. Let us explain.





Wild rice harvesting is one important aspect of the traditional economy of our people in the western regions of Treaty #9. Now that this food is appreciated by your people, the Ontario Government intends to allow anyone a licence to harvest wild rice. So much for the insistence of the Ministry of Natural Resources that it caters to local areas first. (10) You must understand, Mr. Justice Hartt, that wild rice harvesting is not just a part of our economy, it is also part of our spiritual and cultural life. The customs surrounding this harvest are as sacred and symbolic to us as is the breaking of bread in the Christian churches.

Hunting and trapping have always been the mainstays of our economy, and are still indivisably inter-related with our sense of being. However, your society has buried us in regulations, registered traplines, and licences issued to outsiders.

So you see, Mr. Commissioner, that not only has our economy been manipulated to the point of near annihilation, but these regulations have constituted an actual attack on our cultural well-being, at the level of our most fundamental values. There is no word in our language for economy, because what we do is a part of the wholeness of our life, in relation to the overall environment.

No matter how diminished our system of economy is now, enough of it remains, if not physically, at least philosophically, to revitalize our system in modern terms. This will accommodate both our beliefs, and our need for economic survival within your larger society. No one can do this for us. Your society does not understand our relationship with the environment, as witnessed by the failure of those past projects that were imposed upon us. Only we are able to plan and implement economic strategies that will fulfil our needs.

(10) See Appendix



Mr. Commissioner, you have already heard from many people who resist any change in the status quo. A classic example of this is the Honourable Mr. Rene Brunelle's presentation to your Commission in Timmins on December 21st, 1977. This statement was understood to be the official position of the Ontario Cabinet, pertaining to Ontario's Native Affairs Policy. The overtones of the statement are very clear:

1. The Ontario Government does not recognize the Nishnawbe-Aski Declaration. It does not even recognize the Cree-Ojibway People as Northern Ontario residents.
2. The Ontario Government does not have a Native Affairs Policy. In fact, practically all the social services programs affecting status Indians, supposedly sponsored by Ontario, are paid for by the Federal Government.
3. Many of our people throughout Ontario are paying various taxes from which few significant returns, if any, are coming back to our people.
4. The Ontario Government is hiding behind the "constitutional conflict syndrome", to escape from the funding of viable socio-economic development programs. (11)

The Premier of Ontario has been ill-advised in allowing the innocent Mr. Brunelle to make such a ludicrous policy statement. The policy advisory staff of the resources field need to be people who are well versed in the current Northern issues.

Our way, which we believe is a large part of the answer to the future of mankind in North America , does not reject as such, a technological society or economic development. It simply asserts that our wisdom is the most valid in planning, regulating and implementing any form of land development.





Twentieth century technology used within the confines of our value system which honours human life, the balance of nature, guards the land and treasures its roots, will guarantee our survival and yours. As custodians, in perpetuity of this land, we, the Nishnawbe-Aski insist that we play a major role in all the decision making processes regarding our life, the land.

Mr. Commissioner, your Inquiry is crucial, as it provides a unique opportunity for our people to make public our position. However, we hesitate to completely trust the motives of the government which established your Inquiry. We have already seen how cleverly the Federal government side-stepped the findings of the Berger Commission. Our trust must unfortunately be tempered by the harsh reality of past government performances.

Mr. Commissioner, you are a major hope for us, but you are not our only one. To say that you are our last hope is to accept the theory that only through the actions of the dominant society can we achieve any future for ourselves. This is not true. We know that we, the Nishnawbe-Aski, must define and guarantee our own future.

On July 6, 1977 and on July 11, 1977, respectively, we declared to the Canadian Public, through the Ontario Premier and Cabinet, and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Federal Cabinet, our right to determine our own future. Some people thought our Declaration was a new idea to us, or one we had copied. These are misconceptions. We were simply stating what is an ancient truth for us, that we have never surrendered our land, nor our right to govern ourselves. Our move toward self-determination, in which your Inquiry plays a part, has begun. We are here today acting on our collective decision as a people.



In this presentation we have stated, once again, a very few of the contradictions and false assumptions that exist between the Federal and Ontario Governments and all the peoples of the North, and in particular, our people. It is unfortunate but true, that this growing list of problems, contradictions and injustices will continue to be extended by the forthcoming presentations of my colleagues.

This Commission has given our people the opportunity to voice our needs. However, this is only the initial step; the Inquiry must be allowed to fulfil its mandate and responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Commissioner, we will be presenting a brief summary of our Nishnawbe-Aski recommendations on the last day of this hearing.

Once again welcome to our homeland, and please enjoy your stay.



APPENDIX

Please note that the following submissions have been loosely categorized according to their general viewpoint, and content. However, there are areas where they overlap considerably. This Appendix does not include those submissions made by our own Nishnawbe-Aski or our Treaty #9 employees.

1. DRYDEN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - DRYDEN -  
November 9, 1977, Page 3

2. SOCIAL SERVICE SUBMISSIONS

(Government (Ministry) Papers are not included)

Sioux Lookout - November 7, 8, 9, 1977

Children's Aid Society of the District of Kenora

Ms. Joyce Timpson

Ms. Linda Pelton

The Director of Sioux Lookout Community Board

Ms. Catherine Love

Ms. I. Filiopovich

Ms. Ruth Ingram

Mr. H. Lockhart

Dryden - November 9, 1977

Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Education

Red Lake - November 14, 15, 1977

Red Lake Inter Agency Co-ordinating Committee

Red Lake District Highschool

Timmins - November 23, 24, 1977

Cochrane Temiskaming Working Group for the Developmentally Handicapped

Mr. J. H. Drysdale, President, Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology





Geraldton - November 28, 1977 and  
Nakina - November 29, 1977

Hearst College  
Ms. Marlene Pierre, President, Ontario Native Women's  
Association  
N.W. Ontario International Women's Decade Co-ordinating Council  
Jay Daiter  
Pioneer Club  
The Improvement District of Nakina

Pickle Lake - December 5, 1977

Patricia Home Owners Association  
Mr. Don Mckelvie  
Pickle Lake Native Resource Community Centre  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Pickett  
Crowlancia High School  
Connell and Ponsford District School Board

Osnaburgh - December 6, 7, 1977

Ms. Joyce Timpson

Toronto - December 15, 1977

Ms. Carol Farkas - The Faculty of Environmental Studies  
University of Waterloo  
Ms. Eleanor McDonald - Planned Parenthood Ontario  
Dr. G. Greenbaum, The Department of Psychiatry - The  
University of Toronto

Toronto - December 16, 1977

Lakehead University  
School of Experiential Education

Timmins - December 21, 1977

Timmins Women's Resource Centre  
Timmins Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association  
Timmins Chapter of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association  
Cochrane District Health Council



3. SUBMISSIONS AGAINST UNCONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT

(No. 4 should also be included as they believe in some control)

A. Submissions for a Moratorium on all proposed development

Sioux Lookout - November 7, 8, 9, 1977

The Venerable Gerald T. Kaye - Archdeacon of Patricia

Red Lake - November 14, 15, 1977

Mr. Hugh Carlson

Timmins - November 23, 24, 1977

Project North  
Canadian Association in Support of the Native Peoples  
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Geraldton - November 28, 1977 and  
Nakina - November 29, 1977

The Polar Gas Case Study Group - J. E. Macpherson, and  
J. G. Thompson  
Nordinord and Boreal

Toronto - December 15, 1977

Mr. Reid Dingwall, Trent University Native Association  
Ms. Linda Pim, Pollution Probe  
Ms. Laura Kennedy, Canadian Association In Support of  
Native Peoples

Toronto - December 16, 1977

Development Education Centre  
Frontier College





B. General Opposition

Sioux Lookout - November 7, 8, 9, 1977

Treaty #3 - Lac Seul Band  
The Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University  
Mr. Scott Landis  
Mr. Robert E. Bell  
Mr. Tom Terry  
Ms. Linda Pelton  
National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada  
and Coalition for Wilderness

Dryden - November 9, 1977

Grand Council Treaty #3  
Kenora District Camp Owners' Association  
Northwest Ontario Travel Association  
Anti-Mercury Ojibway Group - A-MOG

Red Lake - November 14, 15, 1977

Madsen Community Association Inc.  
Mr. Doug Miranda  
Mr. Tom Faess  
The Red Lake Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee

Ear Falls - November 16, 1977

Ear Falls - Perrault Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Ontario Professional Foresters' Association

Timmins - November 23, 24, 1977

Mr. Douglas H. Pimlott  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
Ontario Trappers' Association  
Northern Ontario Heritage Party

Geraldton - November 28, 1977 and  
Nakina - November 29, 1977

Ms. Millie Barrett  
Ontario Native Women's Association  
Native Student's Association - Lakehead University  
Mr. George Marek



Griffith Mine  
Campbell Red Lakes Mines Ltd.  
Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Ltd.  
Reed Ltd.

Ear Falls - November 16, 1977

Mr. Frederick A. Bergman  
Dr. Harrison C. Maynard

Timmins - November 23, 24, 1977

Ontario Mining Association  
Timmins - Procupine Chamber of Commerce  
Cochrane Board of Trade  
Unorganized Communities Association of Northwestern Ontario  
Ontario New Democratic Party Caucus

Geraldton - November 28, 1977 and  
Nakina - November 29, 1977

Town of Geraldton  
Polar Gas Project  
Township of Longlac  
Nakina Tourist Area Outfitters  
Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd.  
Lake Nipigon Metis Association  
Reverend Canon J. H. Long

Pickle Lake - December 5, 1977

Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd.  
The Corporation of the Improvement District of Pickle Lake

Toronto - December 15, 1977

The Faculty of Forestry & Landscape Architecture -  
The University of Toronto  
A Group of Concerned Ottawa Citizens

Timmins - December 21, 1977

Northeastern Ontario Municipalities Action Group



Pickle Lake - December 5, 1977

The Waterloo Local of The Ontario Public Interest  
Research Group

Toronto - December 15, 1977

Urban and Regional Planning - University of Waterloo  
Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association  
Alcoze, Laurentian University  
Laurentian University, Department of Geography  
Department of Native Studies - University of Sudbury and  
Laurentian University  
Mr. P. Dare, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

Toronto - December 16, 1977

National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada  
Conservation Council

4. SUBMISSIONS ADVOCATING A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND DEVELOPMENT

Sioux Lookout - November 7, 8, 9, 1977

The Corporation of the Town of Sioux Lookout  
The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Brian Anderson  
Mr. Wesley Houston  
The Great Lakes Paper Company Ltd.  
Ontario Forest Industries  
The Armstrong Metis Association

Dryden - November 9, 1977

Dryden District Chamber of Commerce  
Canadian Paperworkers Union - Local 105

Red Lake - November 14, 15, 1977

Red Lake District High School  
Association of Professional Engineers of the  
Province of Ontario - Lake of the Woods Chapter  
Tri-Municipal Community Association  
J.E.J. Fahlgren





5. ONAKAWANA DEVELOPMENT LTD., 1977, A COMPANY PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPING A LIGNITE COAL MINE AT ONAKAWANA - Page 5
6. TAKEN FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S NEWSLETTER NORTH OF THE 50TH - Page 27
7. MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, NOVEMBER 1, 1977  
Section 4, Page 49
8. COMMENTATING SUBMISSIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT OF 1975 and other Federal and Provincial Environmental Legislation)  
(of a questioning nature)  
Sioux Lookout - November 7, 8, 9, 1977  
The Faculty of Environmental Studies - York University  
  
Red Lake - November 14, 15, 1977  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment  
Tri-Municipal Community  
  
Timmins - November 23, 24, 1977  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
  
Toronto - December 15, 1977  
Pollution Probe  
  
Toronto - December 16, 1977  
The Ontario Society of Environmental Management
9. ESTRIN DAVID, THE CANADIAN LAWYER, AN ARTICLE PUBLICATION, HEARING QUOTATION, Page 10
10. MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, November 1, 1977
11. OVERTONES - PARAPHRASED FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE RENE BRUNELLE,  
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR  
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

on

February 1, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST  
ROOM 801  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
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by

MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

*DM Marshall*

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TORONTO



S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD



N O T E:

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WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO.





BRIEF FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE  
ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT  
AT MOOSONEE ONTARIO BY

CHAIRMAN

R. J. COOL

THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD  
ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 1978



MR. JUSTICE HARTT:

THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPING OF NORTHERN ONTARIO AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE COMMUNITY OF MOOSONEE.

THIS VERBAL PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD IS HERE SUBMITTED BY MYSELF, CHAIRMAN R.J. COOL. IT IS CONDENSED AND JUST FRINGES ON THE PEAKS ON THE VAST MANDATE BEFORE YOU MR. COMMISSIONER. MORE DETAILED INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION ON ANY OF OUR VIEWS WOULD BE GRATEFULLY DISCUSSED OR IN WRITTEN FORM FORWARDED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.

THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD IS AN ELECTED GROUP FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF MOOSONEE REPRESENTING BETWEEN 13 AND 14 HUNDRED PEOPLE. THE NAMES OF THE ELECTED GROUP ARE SUBMITTED TO THE PROVINCE FOR APPOINTMENT AND THUS GIVING THIS BOARD THE POWERS SIMILAR TO A TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY. THE RESULTS OF OUR VOTING INDICATE THE INTEREST OF OUR TOTAL COMMUNITY. APPENDIX "A" INCLUDES LEGAL STRUCTURE OF OUR BOARD BACKGROUND HISTORY AND INFORMATION AND ALSO VOTING STATISTICS.

OUR BRIEF IS FORMULATED AFTER CONSIDERABLE INTERVIEWING OR DISCUSSION WITH PERSONS THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY AND UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS OF OUR BOARD.

ALL WHO WORK AND LIVE IN MOOSONEE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND MOST CERTAINLY THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY, ALSO THE AREA NORTH OF



THE 50TH AND FOR THAT MATTER ALL OF CANADA.

THE EFFECTS OF MAJOR ENTERPRISES UPON OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT MUST BE SAFEGUARDED BY EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE. GUARANTEES AS TO LAND RECLAMATION, NON POLLUTION MEASURES, RESOURCE ERADICATION WITH NO RESERVE OF FUNDS OR EMPLOYMENT AFTERWARDS, SHOULD BE RESOLVED. ALL THESE MEASURES MUST BE LEGALLY ASSURED BEFORE THE "SOD IS TURNED" ON ANY MAJOR PROJECT. IN THIS DAY AND AGE WITH ALL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THAT IS AVAILABLE TO US, SURELY WE CAN PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR LAND AND PROTECT LIFE AND IT'S HABITAT. WITH THE CAPABILITIES OF OUR LEGAL MINDS WE CERTAINLY CAN ASSURE COMMITMENTS AND ENFORCE THEM.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE ALWAYS PRESENT, IN SOME ASPECTS HIGHLY COMPOUNDED BY LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HOWEVER THERE ARE SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT COME WITH DEVELOPMENT WHICH USUALLY OFFSET THE BAD, AT LEAST ON A LONG TERM IF NOT IMMEDIATELY.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY WE SEE MULTIPLE SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH CAN BE DERIVED FROM DEVELOPMENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS EXTREMELY HIGH, THE ECONOMIC STATUS THEREFORE VERY LOW, SO WE MUST PROCURE A GOOD SOLID WORK BASE. HOWEVER . . . WE DO NOT WANT MEANINGLESS JOBS CREATED JUST TO OFFSET WELFARE TO SOME DEGREE. WE WANT GOOD CONTINUED CREATIVE EMPLOYMENT THAT GIVES PRIDE AND FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT TO EVERYONE. THIS WE FEEL COMES WITH DEVELOPMENT. SO WE MUST INSIST THAT GOOD, SOUND PROJECTS BE ENCOURAGED WITHOUT DELAY IN ORDER TO DERIVE IMMEDIATE NECESSARY EMPLOYMENT. WE MUST ALSO FORMULATE ECONOMIC POLICIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.



MOOSONEE IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN PROGRESSING, BUT WITH AN ELEMENT OF SOCIAL STABILITY. IN PARTICIPATING IN LARGER PROJECTS, IT WOULD BE OUR WISH TO START BY LIMITING LOCAL INVOLVEMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND THEN IF THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR ACCOMMODATING MORE WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT THE BUILD UP TAKE PLACE ON A GRADUAL BASIS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE BUILD UP WOULD COME IN FROM THE UPPER JAMES BAY COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

AS AN EXAMPLE THE ONAKAWANA DEVELOPMENT APPROXIMATELY 65 MILES SOUTH OF US OFFERS GOOD EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL. WE COULD COMMENCE PREPARING OURSELVES IF WE COULD HAVE A GOOD POSITIVE INDICATION THAT IT IS APPROVED BY ALL AND GOING AHEAD. A ROAD FROM MOOSONEE WOULD BE IDEAL IN CREATING IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT, AND BETTER STILL PROVIDE MEANS OF ACCESS FOR OUR WORKERS. APPENDIX B COPY OF A REPORT ON A ROAD BETWEEN ONTARIO HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND MOOSONEE.

WE WOULD BE NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT THE NORTH, MOOSONEE MORE SPECIFICALLY, WOULD BENEFIT THE MOST OF SUCH PROJECTS AS ONAKAWANA. ONLY LIMITED EMPLOYMENT WOULD COME OUR WAY, BUT WE ARE UNDER ESTIMATED BY MOST AS TO OUR RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES WHEN IT COMES TO ADAPTING TO NEW AND DIFFERENT CHALLENGES. GIVEN EVEN GROUND WE CAN COMPETE WELL WITH ANY. WE MAY HAVE TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND IMPROVE ON SOME.

OUR CULTURAL BACKGROUND IS ONE WELL WORTHY OF PRESERVING. WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO DO SO BY ALL MEANS. A CULTURAL CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE THE MEANS OF DISPLAYING, CONFIRMING AND MAINTAINING THE HERITAGE OF ALL RESIDENTS. THIS WOULD INSTIL CONTINUED PRIDE AND PERHAPS INCREASE IT.





AS ALTERNATE USES FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM BRINGS OUT MANY POSSIBILITIES. WE HAVE GOOD RELATED HISTORY SUCH AS THE FUR TRADES, THE TIDAL EFFECTS OF JAMES BAY AND ITS SALT WATERS, OUR WATERFOWL AND DOWN TO JUST PLAIN FRESH AIR. THESE ARE A FEW OF THE RESOURCES WE HAVE TO OFFER TO OUR VISITORS. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP TOURISM TO THE FULLEST. APPENDIX C WHICH CONSISTS OF REMARKS GIVEN AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD AND AT THE JAMES BAY FRONTIER ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OUTLINES DETAILS ON THIS SUBJECT.

NORTH OF THE 50TH. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF MERCHANTABLE TIMBER WHICH COULD BE UTILIZED. WE STRONGLY ADVOCATE THAT THIS TIMBER NOT BE HARVESTED IN CAREFREE WAYS BUT ON A REASONABLE SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS. ANOTHER FURTHER DESIRE WOULD BE TO TRAIN AND ENCOURAGE PERSONS IN OUR AREA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED IN THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

TO SUGGEST WAYS AND MEANS OF ASSESSING AND DECIDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF MAJOR ENTERPRISES WE FEEL THAT EACH PROJECT MUST BE RELATED WITH THE AREA AND PEOPLE LIVING IN THAT IMMEDIATE AREA.

THERE IS TOO MUCH SAID AND DONE BY PERSONS NOT FULLY AND REALISTICALLY AWARE OF WHAT IS TRULY HAPPENING IN THE NORTHERN AREAS CONCERNED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW PEOPLE FEEL AND WHAT THEY WANT UNLESS CONSIDERABLE TIME IS SPENT WITH THEM AWAY FROM THE POLITICAL, METROPOLITAN AND OTHER SUCH PRESSURES. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA CONCERNED BEST KNOW THE AREA AND WHAT THE PEOPLE REQUIRE.



LARGE GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT CLAIM TO HAVE THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE NORTH OFTEN REFLECT THEIR OWN WISHES OR IMPLANTED IDEAS OF OTHERS, RATHER THAN THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUALS THEMSELVES WHO LIVE IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES. THEREFORE WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS TO HAVE RESPECT FOR THE OPINION OF THOSE LIVING IN SMALL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS MOOSONEE IS VERY IMPORTANT. SOMETIMES BACKWARD SOUNDING SUGGESTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS ARE LOW LEVEL AND REALISTIC, BUT VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR SURVIVAL. EACH PROJECT OR DEVELOPMENT MUST BE REVIEWED CAREFULLY AND PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA IN A FASHION WHERE ALL FACTS ARE CLEAR AND ON THE TABLE. CLAIMS OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS SHOULD BE SETTLED. OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO CONSUMMATE A REAL EFFORT IN ASSESSING THESE CLAIMS AND TOGETHER JUSTLY NEGOTIATE WHAT RIGHTS ARE DEMANDED.

OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS ALWAYS EXPOSED TO DANGERS - AS A NORTHERN COMMUNITY WE SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND BE GIVEN THE SOLID BACKING FOR SAFEGUARDING IT. OUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT IS ALSO VULNERABLE - WE ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO RECOGNIZE THREATS IN THESE AREAS AND ONCE AGAIN WE WOULD LOOK FOR SUPPORT OR SUGGESTIONS TOWARDS CORRECTIVE MEASURES WE MIGHT PROPOSE. WE AS A COMMUNITY MUST HOWEVER MAKE SINCERE AND CONCERTED EFFORTS TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP IN BOTH THE MONITORING OF ALL SITUATIONS AND IN COMING UP WITH WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THAT MAY DEVELOP.

IN CLOSING, SIR, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS BRIEF HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE BOARD AND STAFF AS WE FELT THAT OUR FEELING COULD BE MORE SINCERELY EXPRESSED, AND ALSO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR SUBMISSION WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED BY OUR RELUCTANCE TO OBTAIN



OUTSIDE HELP WHICH WAS OFFERED BY THE COMMISSION.

MAY I, ON BEHALF OF THIS COMMUNITY AND THE BOARD WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS ON YOUR UNDERTAKING IN THE STUDY OF THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT.

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD  
BY R. J. COOL, CHAIRMAN.





INFORMATION ON THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT  
AREA BOARD ACT

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The 1977-1978 Municipal Directory sets out that there were a total of 798 area municipalities made up of 40 cities, 5 boroughs, 144 towns, 120 villages, 475 townships and 13 Improvement Districts having township status. Moosonee is shown separately as the one Development Area Board.

The affairs of these area municipalities are governed by councils elected by the residents and property owners, except in the case of the Improvement Districts where the government is vested in a Board of Trustees, members of whom are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. These councils and Board of Trustees must work within the framework as prescribed by various Provincial statutes, the most important of which is The Municipal Act which sets out the powers and limitations of these bodies. There are many other Acts governing particular aspects of municipal jurisdiction such as The Planning Act, various Acts pertaining to schools, The Health Act, The Highway Traffic Act, The Drainage Act, The Cemeteries Act, etc. The Municipal Affairs Act sets out the jurisdiction of the Ministry as to municipalities under supervision and the Municipal Board Act is largely concerned with the approval by the Ontario Municipal Board for the financing and other contractual obligations extending beyond the term of the then current council. All of these area municipalities are self-supporting to the extent that they must finance their affairs on the tax revenue derived from their assessment plus various grants from the Province. Some of these provincial grants are conditional such as the grant from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for road construction and maintenance. In this case the Province pays 50% or more of the construction and maintenance program providing the program is approved by the Ministry.

The Province also pays unconditional "tax stabilization grants" plus a per capita grant which amounts to a sum nearly equal to the municipal tax levy. In 1976 this amounted to \$46,285 and in 1977, the sum of \$63,279. It is of interest to note in 1973, the Province paid \$14,000.

These area municipalities all have varying degrees of responsibility for welfare, homes for the aged, children's aid, District Health Board, etc. The area municipalities also must include in their tax levies the requisition received from the regional Board of Education and Separate School Boards.

In 1977 at the request of the Ministry of Education, the Board was given this function by order in council to collect the requisition for the secondary school (5 mills) and the Public and Separate Schools at 8 mills.

Except for Improvement Districts which are under supervision, none of these area municipalities has the legal power or capacity to develop, buy, sell, lease or dispose of land for residential purposes unless to fulfill an official plan or if designated by the Minister of Housing.

The above is a very brief summary of the responsibilities of the area municipalities and will give a better appreciation of the



unique status of The Moosonee Development Area Board.

The conduct of municipal affairs in Moosonee is set out in The Moosonee Development Area Board Act which was enacted in 1966 and became effective as of August 1968. Thus aside from Metropolitan Toronto, or the Regional Municipalities such as Timmins, Sudbury, etc. which have special Acts, no other municipal corporation has a specific statutory enactment. Reference will be made to the various sections:

Section 1 - Schedule A which is not included in the enclosure describes the area which is the townsite of Moosonee plus the three geographic Townships of Caron, Horden and Moose and part of the Moose River.

Section 2 - Subsection 2 - provides for the composition and appointment of the Board;

Subsection 5 - provides for the pension scheme for Board employees; and

Subsection 6 - sets out the powers and capacity of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3 - sets out the powers of the Board and should be read in conjunction with Schedule B of the enclosed Act. In summary this section means that for the purposes of the items in Schedule B, the Board has the powers of a township. You will note that the original Act provides 6 powers. Four more powers were added in 1969, three more in 1971, six in 1974, nine in 1976 and three in 1977. Section 3 also provides for the imposition and collection of taxes, a summary of the taxation revenue is as follows:

#### Taxes

Including the payment of taxes by Government and their agencies (grant in lieu of taxes), the amount estimated as accruing to the Board for municipal purposes in 1977 was \$80,000. In 1976, the actual amount was \$65,000 and 1975 the sum of \$60,000. The increase in 1977 was a higher grant from the O.N.T.C. and the taxation of the C.F. Base Housing.

Section 4 - provides very wide powers for the acquisition, development and disposal of the land. The Board has made extensive use of its capacity in this regard. The Board in practice had a greater development opportunity than Improvement Districts as most of the subdivided, unoccupied lots within the townsite were turned over to the Board. Since 1971 the Board registered three subdivisions south of Store Creek and has provided services to some of the lots. In 1977 the Board registered the plan for the residential area of the C.F. Base. All of the lots upon which homes were left on site, have been sold, leaving 4 or 5 serviced residential lots.

Section 6 - provides for the supervision of the Board's affairs by Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs. In this regard the budget, tax levy and expenditures must be approved and likewise the by-laws of the Board.



Section 7 - provides for the grants to the Board by the government. Moosonee is unique in that it does not get the same grants, unconditional or conditional, as area municipalities, but it does receive a large unconditional grant which in each of the years 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974 amounted to \$210,500 and in 1975 - \$265,000, 1976 and 1977 the sum of \$285,000. The sum of \$300,000. has been requested for 1978. These funds are appropriated by the Legislature in recognition of the Development Area's relatively small tax base.

Section 10- Here again Moosonee is unique inasmuch as it does not require the approval of the Municipal Board for any undertaking or financial obligation to be assumed by the Board which extends beyond the year in which it is made. However, the Board does require Municipal Board approval to authenticate debentures.

Section 11- This section in essence means that the Board does not have to assume the financing and administration in respect to welfare, health, children's aid, homes for the aged, etc... and in these instances the financial and administration burden is retained by the Province on the same basis as unorganized territory.

Section 13- The powers of the Board may be increased as warranted by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Actually the unique status of Moosonee is best described by Dick Knowles in his "History of Municipal Type Services and Government for Moosonee" where he states, "Legally the Moosonee Development Area Board remains 'unorganized territory' as the Board is not a 'municipality', since it is not an incorporation of the local inhabitants. The Moosonee Development Area Board is incorporated and charged with the responsibility of bringing certain municipal services to the inhabitants and performing certain specified municipal duties acting like a township council when doing so, but this does not make it a township municipality."

There are several other matters that may be of interest

1. The Board owns the townsite water and sewage distribution system and has the obligation to maintain them. The revenue from the water account is retained by the Board. The Province owns and operates the water and sewage treatment plans and is also responsible for the two existing sewage lift pumps. It will be noted in the budget that there is a separate account for the operation of the distribution system and the loss on the operation is made up by the Board. The surplus if any is retained by the Board. To date there has never been a surplus.
2. The Board operates the airport which is leased from the Province. (The lease as yet has not been finalized pending the signing of a lease from the Federal Government to the Province.) As the airport is designated a National Secondary Airport, the Federal Government makes up the difference between the operating expenses and the revenue on an approved budget basis. In 1977 this budget as approved by Federal Department of Transport estimated the loss as \$114,000. The capital improvements are paid by the Board.





3. Debentures - All area municipalities finance long term obligations by debentures which are repaid usually on an amortized basis over a term of years together with interest. The Board has one debenture in the original amount of \$132,000 for the construction of the three residences for doctors and to purchase the house of the Secretary-Treasurer. This debenture bears interest at 8% per annum and is repayable over 20 years in the amount of approximately \$13,500 per annum. The present principal balance is \$106,000 (December 31st, 1977). One of the duties of the members of a council or Board is to assure that provision is made in the estimates for the yearly payment. The Board has a further long term obligation for the installation of the runway lights which was financed by a promissory note held by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The original amount was \$93,333 and is now \$46,767. The balance is payable in two equal installations in the year 1978 and 1979. The interest cost is charged as in airport operating expense and is reimbursed by the Federal Government. The runway lights are depreciated over 10 year period.

4. Reserve Fund

The 1977 Board established a Reserve Fund - The Moosonee Development Area Trust in the amount of \$205,000. which was obtained from the sale of the base assets less expenditures. This fund can be used to offset bank borrowing when shortage of working funds is encountered, particularly for the first five months of the year and the capital may be used for the general benefit of the community.

5. Reserves

The Board has established a reserve for sick leave benefits for its employees as of December 31st, 1977 this amounted to \$13,000.





# The History of Municipal Type Services

and

Government for Moosonee, Ontario

by R. B. Knowles  
(Nov., 1970)

## GENERAL EVENTS LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

Revillion Freres Company's trading post, built on site in 1903, (in competition with the Hudson's Bay Co. at Moose Factory), was the first major development in what is now known as Moosonee. As a result of this a settlement started to develop, with a small school and sawmill and eventually a branch bank (later closed).

With the coming of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway (officially July 15, 1932), now called the Ontario Northland Railway and the establishment by the Railway's Commission of a planned subdivision (registered as plan no. M-14-C in the Cochrane Land Titles Office on May 31, 1932) more industry and residents moved into the Moosonee Townsite. Streets, such as First St., Revillion Rd. Ferguson Rd., and Gardnwe Rd., were established, along with drainage ditches. They were of poor quality and not always passable but then vehicles were few. Such things as snow ploughing and simple maintenance were handled by the Railway and other local concerns on a co-operative basis. Full and effective administration was not maintained however and most had to fend for themselves.

Other municipal type services or functions, such as power, water, telephone, building regulations, etc., were supplied by the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. Power was and is by diesel generators. Police services are supplied by the Ontario Provincial Police. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has had a detachment at Moose Factory since 1926.

With the building of the Moose Factory Island Federal Hospital in 1948, the Mid-Canada radar line in 1954, and the eventual opening of the Royal Canadian Airforce Radar Base in the north-east sector of the Moosonee Townsite in 1962, the demand for improved roads and services increased. Tourist activity was also on the upswing and in 1964 one-day excursions started, causing a much greater awareness of the area and its needs. Due to the problems of septic tanks, raw sewage in ditches, etc., the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission had suspended the sale of further lots. Many people became squatters.



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Numerous residents and interested parties had been advocating some type of municipal government for Moosonee. Since its inception in 1963 the James Bay Chamber of Commerce had this as one of its projects and when the Provincial Legislature Bill 175, being an Act to provide for the Establishment of The Moosonee Development Area Board, was passed in 1966 the Chamber carried on continuous dialogue and correspondence with the Department of Municipal Affairs to have the Act proclaimed. In the meantime, recognizing the need for better services, the provincial government proceeded, under the auspices of the Ontario Water Resources Commission, to build proper roads, develop new lots, and put in adequate water and sewage facilities, during 1966 to 1968. Much of this was completed before the new Board was established.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

Bill 175 known as The Moosonee Development Area Board Act 1966 calls for a chairman, vice-chairman and three other members, all to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It would come into force on the day it was so proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor. This would be the first Development Area in Ontario. Due to the low local assessment base and lack of immediate prospective taxpayers the Province would pay most of the costs and therefore retain control over the Board's affairs.

At the request of The Honorable W. Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and The Honorable Rene Brunelle, local M.L.A., the James Bay Chamber of Commerce sponsored a meeting (chaired by Dick Knowles, President) at the Legion Hall Moosonee on Tuesday February 20th, 1968. The Chamber had been requested to submit names of recommended candidates for the Board, but decided to convene a public meeting and accept, as its list, those persons nominated at the meeting. The meeting was first advised of the powers and expected responsibilities and duties of the proposed Board, as outlined in the relative Act. A total of 14 residents, who accepted, were nominated and the Chamber communicated this to the Provincial Government. Of the 5 eventual appointees all were either on this list or present at the meeting.

The Provincial Government acknowledged the foregoing list and various private interviews were held with prospective candidates.

On August 18, 1968 the James Bay Chamber of Commerce again convened a public meeting, at the Government's request. It was held in the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee and arranged for by the Chamber's Civic Affairs Co-Chairman, Rev. J. R. Clarke, and chaired by Co-Chairman, Victor Reader of Moose Factory. Included in the list of those attending were: The Honorable John P. Robarts, Prime Minister of Ontario; The Honorable W. Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs; The Honorable Rene Brunelle, Minister of Lands and Forests; Mr. Ralph Stewart, local M.P.; Mr. Thomas Wells, M.L.A.; the Consul General of West Germany; etc. This was also a Sunday and day for the Polar Bear Express Excursion so, in addition to the foregoing and area residents, the festivities were joined and witnessed by people from many parts of Canada and the United States.



This gathering was held under the authority of Provincial Order-in-Council No. OC-3390/68, dated August 15th, 1968. The Government officially introduced its first 5 appointees to The Moosonee Development Area Board being:

Edward R. Butcher, Chairman, (3 year term) - local Imperial Oil Agent;  
David Wynne, Vice-Chairman, (3 year term) - free trader and local retail merchant;  
Patrick F. Gray, Member, (2year term) - Assumption Hospital Administrator;  
Arthur H. Michell, Member, (2 year term) - retired lodge operator and former Hudson's Bay Co. employee; and  
Xavier Wesley, Member, (1 year term) - Oil Company employee.

The new Board's first meeting was held in the Lion's Club Hall, Moosonee on August 28th 1968, at which time Mr. F. Braybrook, of the Department of Municipal Affairs, administered the Oath of Allegiance and Declaration of Office and Rev. J. R. Clarke (Anglican) and Rev. J. Baril (Roman Catholic) blessed the proceedings and Board's success. Mr. P. F. Gray was appointed as Acting Secretary-Treasurer (part-time). The Board's public meetings were established as the second Wednesday each month. Mr. George Hewson, of the Department of Municipal Affairs, Toronto, was to oversee Board affairs for the Department.

The first projects (commencing the winter of 1968-9) of the Board (under the temporary supervision of A. H. Michell) were land clearing and brushing, road maintenance, and completion of the road to the site of the new airport.

The Moosonee Development Area Board Fire Department was created March 14th, 1969 (By-Law 2-69). Joseph Crawford of Moosonee, an employee of Canadian Forces Station Moosonee Fire Dept., was appointed first Fire Chief (part-time) August 1st, 1969 (By-Law 7-69).

The Board appointed, on May 1st, 1969, its first full-time Superintendent of Works and Building Inspector, Andrew J. Faries, of Moose Factory, former employee of the Moose Factory Board of Education and Canadian Forces Station Moosonee, (By-Law 5-69). On June 11, 1970, Gilbert A. McDonald took over the duties of Building Inspector (By-Law 21-70).

As at October 1st, 1969, the Board appointed Richard B. Knowles of Moosonee, former employee of the Moosonee Education Centre and local bank manager, as Acting Secretary-Treasurer (full-time). When government approval was granted, via Bill 189, 1968-9, which amended the Board's Act, he was then appointed first permanent Secretary-Treasurer of the Board (By-Law k-70).





The Board's first office (the former Moosonee Education Centre construction office) was destroyed by fire July 17, 1969. After this they occupied a house, a trailer and then a house on Cotter Street, purchased July 1, 1970.

#### BOUNDARIES OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA

The Moosonee Development Area Board Act 1966 originally set the Development Area's boundaries as being, in the Province of Ontario, northeast part of the District of Cochrane, basically those of the original Moosonee Townsite and some surrounding parts of the Townships of Moose, Caron and Horden. Bill 189, 1968-9, amended the original Act and increased the boundaries of the Moosonee Development Area to include all of the Moosonee Townsite, Moose, Caron and Horden Townships, plus one mile, measured at right angles southeasterly from the high tide mark of the left bank, out into the Moose River and including any islands or portions thereof contained therein.

The boundary therefore stretches from James Bay, including Shipsands Island, along the Moose River, meeting the northeast edge of Factory Island, to about 3/4 of a mile south of the mouth of the Kwataboahagan River, encompassing over 220 square miles.

#### POWERS OF THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

(under The Moosonee Development Area Board Act 1966, and amendments thereto, being Bill 189, 1968-9, and Order-in-Council Sept. 11, 1969)

##### A) Under Section 3 of the Act

The Board has the powers of a township council with regards to the specified purposes in Schedule B, only, and it may levy, impose and collect taxes and rates. Also under Section 3a it may:

- (a) acquire and hold land within the Development Area for development purposes;
- (b) survey, clear, grade, subdivide and service such land; and
- (c) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of such land.

##### B) Under Schedule B of the Act the Board may exercise municipal type authority over the following:

- 1. The provision, maintenance and operation of sewer and water services.
- 2. The provision and maintenance of highways, including drainage thereof and regulation and control of traffic therein or thereon.
- 3. The collection, removal and disposal of garbage and other refuse.
- 4. All purposes of The Planning Act.
- 5. The provision, maintenance and operation of fire protection services.
- 6. The provision, maintenance and operation of street lighting.



7. The provision, maintenance and operation of parks, community centres, and programs of recreation.
8. The purposes of The Municipal Act with respect to trailers, trailer camps, trailer parks, tourist camps, motels, air harbours and landing grounds.
9. The licensing, regulating and governing of owners and drivers of cabs, buses, and motor vehicles and other vehicles used for hire and persons keeping boats for hire.
10. The purposes of Part I of The Dog Tax and Live Stock and Poultry Protection Act.

Under Order-in-Council, #OC-184/71, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, dated the 21st of January, 1971 Schedule B was further amended by the addition of the following:

11. The purposes of paragraph 69a of section 377 of The Municipal Act with respect to the acquisition of real property for the purpose of leasing such property to a legally qualified medical or dental practitioner.
12. The prohibiting or regulating the discharge of guns or other firearms, air guns and spring guns or any class or type thereof in the Development Area or in any defined area or areas thereof.
13. The purposes of The Municipal Act with respect to establishing, widening, altering, diverting or stopping up highways or parts thereof.

Legally The Moosonee Development Area Board remains "unorganized territory", as the Board is not a "municipality", since it is not an incorporation of the local inhabitants. The Moosonee Development Area Board is incorporated and charged with the responsibility of bringing certain municipal services to the inhabitants and performing certain specified municipal duties acting like a township council when doing so, but this does not make it a township municipality.



CHAPTER 277 - R S O 1970

The Moosonee Development Area Board  
Act

1. In this Act,
- (a) "Board means The Moosonee Development Area Board; Interpretation
  - (b) "Development Area" means the area defined in Schedule A;
  - (c) "Minister" means the member of the Executive Council to whom the administration of this Act is assigned by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. 1966, c. 89, s. 1.
- 2.-- (1) The Moosonee Development Area Board is continued as a corporation without share capital. 1966, c. 89 s. 2 (1), amended. Board continued
- (2) The Board shall consist of 7 members appointed and designated as chairman, vice-chairman and members by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. composition
- (3) Four members of the Board constitute a quorum. quorum
- (4) If a vacancy occurs on the Board through death, resignation or otherwise, the vacancy may be filled and the members may be redesignated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. vacancy
- (5) The Board shall be deemed to be a local board for the purposes of The Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act. 1966, c. 89, s. 2 (2-5). deemed local board under R S O 1970, c 324
- (6) The Board shall appoint a secretary-treasurer who may be a member of the Board, who shall hold office during pleasure and, with respect to the Development Area, has the powers and shall perform the duties of the clerk, treasurer and collector of a municipality. 1968-69, c. 70, s. 1. Secretary-treasurer
3. For the purpose of every Act, the Board, in respect of the purposes specified in Schedule B, has, in the Development Area, all the powers and duties of the council of a township including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power to levy, impose and collect taxes and rates, and, when any such power or duty is exercised under any Act in respect of any of such purposes, the Act applies mutatis mutandis. 1966, c. 89, s. 3; 1968-69, c. 70, s. 2. Powers of Board





- Further powers of Board 4. In addition to the powers provided in section 3, the Board may,
- (a) acquire and hold land within the Development Area for development purposes;
  - (b) survey, clear, grade, subdivide and service such land; and
  - (c) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of such land. 1968-69, c. 70, s. 3.
- District assessor R S O 1970, c. 32 5. The Development Area is a locality for the purposes of The Assessment Act. 1966, c. 89, s. 4, amended.
- Application of R S O. 1970, c. 118 6. The Board is subject to Part III of The Department of Municipal Affairs Act as though it were a municipality. 1966, c. 89, s. 5.
- Grants 7. The Minister may make grants to the Board out of the moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature. 1966, c. 89, s. 6, amended.
- Application of R S O 1970, c. 370 8. The Provincial Land Tax Act does not apply to the Development Area. 1966, c. 89, s. 7.
- Board not under R S O 1970, c. 323 9. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the municipality Board is not a municipality under The Ontario Municipal Board Act. 1966, c. 89, s. 8.
- Development Area deemed under R S O 1970, cc. 325, 323 10. For the purposes of The Ontario Municipal Improvement Corporation Act and sections 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 of The Ontario Municipal Board Act, the municipality Board shall be deemed to be a municipality and the approval of the Department of Municipal Affairs shall be deemed to be an approval of the Ontario Municipal Board under sections 64 and 65 of The Ontario Municipal Board Act. 1966, c. 89, s. 9.
- Development Area remains territory 11. The Development Area shall remain territory without municipal organization. 1966, c. 89, s. 10.
- Application of R S O 1970, c. 89 12. The Corporations Act does not apply to the Board. 1966, c. 89, s. 11.
- Regulations 13. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations amending Schedule B. 1966, c. 89, s. 12.





## SCHEDULE B

1. The provision, maintenance and operation of sewer and water services.
2. The provision and maintenance of highways, including dramage thereof and the regulations and control of traffic therein or thereon.
3. The collection, removal and disposal of garbage and other refuse.
4. All the purposes of The Planning Act.
5. The provision, maintenance and operation of fire protection services.
6. The provision, maintenance and operation of street lighting.
7. The provision, maintenance and operation of parks, community centres and programs of recreation.
8. The purposes of The Municipal Act with respect to trailers, trailer camps, trailer parks, tourist camps, motels, air harbours and landing grounds.
9. The licensing regulating and governing of owners and drivers of cabs, buses, and motor vehicles and other vehicles used for hire and of persons keeping boats for hire.
10. The purposes of Part 1 of the Dog Tax and Live Stock and Poultry Protection Act. 1966 s. 89, Sched. B. O. Reg. 377/69. s. 1.
11. The purposes of paragraph 69a of section 377 of The Municipal Act with respect to the acquisition of real property for the purpose of leasing such property to a legally qualified medical or dental practitioner.
12. The prohibiting or regulating the discharge of guns or other firearms, air guns and spring guns or any class or type thereof in the Development Area or in any defined area or areas thereof.
13. The purposes of The Municipal Act with respect to establishing, widening, altering, divertin or stopping up highways or parts thereof.



REGULATION MADE UNDER  
THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD ACT

AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE B OF THE ACT

1. Schedule B to the Act, as amended by Ontario Regulation 57/71 is further amended by adding there-  
to the following items:

14. The purposes of The Cemeteries Act.
15. The purposes of The Municipal Act with respect to drainage.
16. The purposes of The Drainage Act.
17. The purposes of clause c of paragraph 68 of section 354 of The Municipal Act with respect to sewage waste removal.
18. The purposes of paragraph 6 of section 383 of The Municipal Act.
19. The purposes of The Public Halls Act.
20. The purposes of sections 5, 9, 15, and 16 of The Ontario Unconditional Grants Act, 1975.  
filed as
21. The provision and operation of Public, Separate and Secondary Schools.
22. The purposes of The Housing Development Act.
23. The provision, maintenance and operation of Library services.

filed  
as No 57c-74  
Aug 10, 1974

filed OR 810-76  
Oct 5, 1976

R O C 179/77  
29 May, 1977  
Filed  
3 June 1977



THE MOOSENEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD  
MOOSENEE, ONTARIO  
SUMMARY OF 1977 ELECTION SHOWING  
COMPARISON WITH 1976 FIGURES

	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	WHITE	INDIAN	METIS
LISTED VOTERS	693	472	221	270 39%	261 38%	162 23%
VOTED	281	197	84	126	89	66
% VOTED	40.5	41.7	38.0	46.7	34.1	40.7

SUMMARY: 46.7% of white people voted - 1976 - 1976 - 50.5%  
34.1% of Indian people voted - 1976 - 18.3%  
40.7% of Metis people voted - 1976 - 35.6%  
36.6% of Indian & Metis voted - 1976 - 22.9%  
40.5% of Total Listed Voters Voted - 1976 - 30.8%

Bob: This is a big improvment over 1976  
especially the Treaty Indian People.

.....  
John E. C. Pringle  
Secretary- Treasurer





The Cochrane Board of Trade

Box 1468

COCHRANE, ONTARIO

September 13th. 1973.

Hon. A. R. B. Lawrence,  
Chairman, Resources Development Policy Committee,  
Timmins, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the communities of Moose Factory, Moosonee, Iroquois Falls and Cochrane we wish to present a joint brief supporting the building of a road to James Bay having its southern end at Highway No. 11.

This brief has already been presented to the Minister of Industry and Tourism, so perhaps you are generally aware of our position in regard to the advantages to be derived by developing this route, as illustrated in the document.

We humbly petition your consideration of our submission at your convenience, and would welcome having the result of your studies.

If you feel that this matter should be discussed in greater details with yourself or members of your Committee we will be only too glad if a meeting were arranged.

Yours truly,

F. Lacroix - President  
THE COCHRANE BOARD OF TRADE



P.O. BOX 127, MOOSONEE, ONTARIO (705) 336-2613

THE MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

February 2, 1973

Mr. Ray Bradette,  
Chairman,  
Transportation Committee,  
Cochrane Board of Trade  
Cochrane, Ontario

Dear Ray,

This is a very much delayed reply to your letter of October 13th, 1972 requesting our comments regarding the desirability of a road between Highway 11 and Moosonee and Moose Factory. Please excuse our slow response.

The Moosonee Development Area Board wishes to go on record as being much in favour of your proposal and we believe this expresses the majority opinion of this community.

It is to be hoped that many interested groups will get behind this project to make it a reality in the near future.

Yours very truly,  
The Moosonee Development  
Area Board

JECP:mp

J. E. C. Pringle,  
Secretary- Treasurer

c.c. E.R. Butcher, Chairman  
R.J. Jones, Mun. Adv. Serv.



BRIEF SUBMITTED BY THE COMBINED COMMUNITIES OF COCHRANE - IROQUOIS FALLS - MOOSONEE AND NOOSE FACTORY, ON THE PROPOSED ROUTE OF A ROAD TO JAMES BAY.

Access by road from highway 11 to James Bay has been a subject of discussion and debate for many years.

We feel the time has come for the development of this isolated North-East part of Ontario, North of the 49th parallel.

We cannot suggest or recommend a single effort on the part of the Government which would provide more development of our natural resources, our tourist potential, which have only recently been discovered and being capitalized on, than a road East of the Abitibi River, North to James Bay.

Many routes have been suggested for the James-Bay highway, such as highway 807 from Smooth Rock Falls to Fraserdale. We feel this route is already served by the Ontario Northland Railway. To build a road alongside the O.N.R., would be a waste of money and would serve absolutely no purpose. A new road in virgin country would open new areas, provide access to isolated country, enable the harvesting of our natural resources, encourage exploration of minerals and possibly gas and oil. Also, provide access and help to develop new provincial parks and recreation areas for hunting and fishing. Surely this would be a much better investment.

Also, the highway 807 route would be a much more expensive project due to the lack of sand and gravel for construction of roads. Cost of construction from Smooth Rock Falls to Fraserdale will confirm this. The many river crossings would also add considerably to the cost. This route does not at present, and an extension would not, provide any tourist attraction, attractive park sites, hunting and fishing areas, or more suitable timber resources.

We would like to submit our recommendation on an ideal location for the James-Bay highway.



THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE, travelling is over Secondary Highway 577 or Highway 67, through Iroquios Falls to link up with Abitibi Paper Company all-weather gravel haulage road which runs north from Iroquois Falls to the Little Abitibi-Williston-Pierre-Montreuil-Harris Lake Chain, in Swartman, McQuibban and Sangster Townships, a distance of approximately 56 miles over sand and gravel eskers.

THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE, travelling is Easterly from Cochrane for approximately 20 miles over Secondary Highway 574 and 652, which is surface treated and intersects the north-south Abitibi Paper Company gravel road at a point approximately 22 miles north of Iroquois Falls.

From the intersection of Secondary Highway 652 and the Abitibi Company gravel road, the Abitibi road also runs east to the Quebec border at LaReine, and from there to LaSarre, ValDor, Montreal and Northern New York State. The Abitibi Paper Company, by an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources, are to improve the gravel road to acceptable standards. This connecting road would provide additional traffic and tourists, and serve as a circle route.

This area is the most attractive in Northern Ontario, comparable to the Nipissing-TroutLake-FrenchRiver system and Muskoka. The Ministry of Natural Resource already have land reserved for a Provincial Park in the area of these lakes. The Little Abitibi Lake and River system offers the best fishing in Ontario. To date this whole area has been reserved for the high income for hunting and fishing. Even today all that is required to provide allweather access to Pierre Lake and the chain of lakes, is the placing of gravel on only 3 1/2 miles of clay road. This small project, together with the approval of the Abitibi Paper Company to use their access road, would make this excellent fishing, hunting and camping area available to all residents and taxpayers of this area, and attract thousands of tourists to our district. The completion of a trail for motorized snow vehicles from Cochrane to Noosonee in the Spring of 1973, will attract many enthusiasts and with publicity, this area could become a year-round tourist and vacation area.





The crossing of the Little Abitibi River at this point is one of the few major river crossings necessary for the completion of the James-Bay highway. Proceeding North from here, many sand and gravel eskers run North, providing road-building materials and natural road locations to Kesagami Lake. Here again the Kesagami Lake area is another excellent fishing and hunting location, where tourism could be developed.

By locating the road West of Kesagami Lake, and because most of the rivers run North and parallel to the proposed route, the number of River crossings would be practically nil, and a great deal less than a route West of the Abitibi River. A road on the West side of Kesagami Lake would also provide access to the Columbyum deposit, south of Moosonee. A feasibility study is again being prepared on the economics of bringing this mineral deposit into production. Road access to this property in the near future may be all that is required to make the mine a possibility.

Also, should the development of the lignite field at Onakawana become a reality, an access road could also be built to serve this area.

The most suitable crossing of the Moose River we believe, would be on the southern tip of Bushy Island, approximately 8 miles south of Moosonee. This part of the Moose River is rapids and shallow water. The new road from Moosonee southerly is near completion for approximately eight miles and could be diverted across the Moose River at this point, to Bushy Island. A causeway/Bailey-Bridge or other arrangement from the mainland to Bushy Island should be investigated.

We also believe crossing the Moose River at this point could provide access by road to Moose Factory. An access road could be built along Buchy Island and Sawpit Island to Moose Factory. Filling-in the channel between Bushy and Sawpit Island, and again between Sawpit and Moose Factory Island may be possible, or the installation of Bailey-Bridges across these two channels, if it prove to be less costly.



There has been several proposals to provide communications between Moose Factory and the mainland at Moosonee. These did not provide a solution to the problem of Transportation during break-up and freeze-up. Our proposal would provide year-round access by road between these two communities.

Within two years the Province of Quebec will have completed the construction of an all-weather road to Fort George on James Bay. This road will provide access for the power projects soon to be started by the James Bay Development Corporation.

Ontario is falling far behind in the development of the North. By providing an all-weather road to James Bay and a major improvement of the dock facilities of the Moose River, and improvements of the airport to accommodate larger aircrafts, Moosonee could become a major supply point for the Quebec power projects and the whole James Bay and Hudson Bay areas.

The area between Cochrane and Moosonee, between the O.N.R. line and the Quebec border, holds thousand of square miles of virgin timber which is maturing and will soon be lost, unless an effort is made to harvest this primary resource.

Private companies are ready to invest in wood processing plants and mills in our areas and only require the assurance of a constant wood supply, by holding timber licences. Surely the Government should cooperate by having timber available to these firms. Are we not trying to encourage industry and create employment. The virgin timber North of the 49th parallel is our only resource;

This area has no gold or base metals.

This area has no factories.

This area has no concentrator.

This area has no assembly plant.

This area has very little agriculture.



For the present, timber is our only industry and resource, and we require the cooperation of the Government to make this timber available to companies who are prepared to produce wood products, harvest this virgin timber and create jobs. The timber resources are still being held by large companies who have more reserves than they will ever require for a perpetual operation. If small licences or permits were available to small operators, the timber industry in our area would have a chance to grow.

Forest resources are abundant in our region and decades ago provided the bulk of our employment. We feel the private companies should be given a chance and encourage by providing them with access roads to help harvest our natural resources.

We would also like to suggest the undertaking of the James-Bay highway should be a combined effort of all Ministries and Governments which have an interest in the development of North-Eastern Ontario. As a slow-growth area the assistance of the Federal Government should be requested. This road could possibly be classed as a road to resources and part of the work done under winter-work projects.

As an example of results from the opening of new areas, you have only to look at the increase in mining and tourist developments in the western part of this province where an annual program of road extensions Northerly has been carried out over the past years.

Time is of the essence for the development of the North-East part of the Province. We sincerely request the Government's help and ask for the immediate study of this proposed route for a road to James Bay, the Tourist potential of this area, the timber resources, and the transportation facilities at Moosonee.

OUR REQUEST IS CRITICAL in order that progress will not pass us by. That we may provide work and employment for our young people who are already seeking jobs in the South, and other parts of the country. We ask that our Government follow the example and the initiative of the rest of the country in developing the "NORTH".





We have great confidence in the North, as did our fathers who pioneered it. However, we must provide access for the prospectors, the tourists, the wood operators, the biologists, the naturalists, the foresters, the tourist outfitters, the engineers, the drillers, etc., as we sincerely feel the future of the Province and of Canada, is in the NORTH.

DO YOU NOT FEEL THIS TO BE A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT ?



REMARKS BY

MR. RHEAL COOL

CHAIRMAN

MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

AT THE

JAMES BAY FRONTIER ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

HELD ON JANUARY 20 & 21st

AT THE

SENATOR HOTEL

TIMMINS



Mr. Chairman - Honourable Ministers - Ladies & Gentlemen

My name is Rea Cool and I am Chairman of the Moosonee Development Area Board.

The M.D.A.B., you may or may not know was organized in 1968 and is composed of seven members elected yearly by the citizens of Moosonee. The names of these persons are then recommended to the Province for appointment, thereby giving us the powers and so on similar to a township or municipality.

Our Board, upon discussion with various members of our community, that are involved or concerned in tourism make the following comments:

Contrary to what many people feel, there is very little money left in Moosonee by the excursion traveller on the Polar Bear Express. We also know that more money would be spent by those who come here, if they could find somewhere to spend it. However, it is difficult to entice enterprisers to develop tourist attractions ... and for obvious reasons. The high cost of living, short season, lack of co-ordinated effort between residents of Moosonee and Government Agencies are all factors that retard "interest".



The people of Moosonee know what is required and have good and strong suggestions towards the enhancement of tourism.

The Moosonee Board of Trade as mentioned in Mr. Brook's submission is working on a project which will assist immediately and also on a longer term basis in making more and better attractions for Moosonee.

Our social and economic environment requires employment for it's betterment. Tourism is one avenue we must explore, encourage and develop.

We have the responsibility of offering more to the people who come to Moosonee. Our visitors travel great distances and we feel that there must be more to make it worth their while.

In summing up our feelings the people of Moosonee realize that first of all:

Much more should be done to attract people and to make Moosonee more presentable to our visitors.

In order to accomplish this, Government input physically and financially should be visualized.

Secondly: It is felt that once the above is accomplished that some local participation will come about. There must be first the community feeling that we have something worth while to offer. Unfortunately, because of the many disappointed visitors that come to Moosonee and





communicate with us, conveying a feeling that,  
"there is nothing to see or do in Moosonee" . . .  
Well . . . soon this feeling is shared by many  
who live in Moosonee. But really . . . we have  
much to offer . . . our culture . . . our history  
with emphasis on the fur trades . . . our tidal  
waters . . . our lowlands for we are the gateway  
to sub-arctic region, and so on down to just  
plain fresh air. These are valuable assets.

In closing we must say that all those to the South of us  
who benefit in the tourist industry please push with us  
to better what is at the end of the rail. Help us  
"Moose People" to "Think Tourism".

Well . . . these were comments prepared in Moosonee.  
After hearing the many colorful and interesting briefs with  
much emphasis on Moosonee and with genuine interest . . .  
I feel, much better.

I am confident with all your sincere interest and assistance  
and with a good concerted effort by all of us in Moosonee  
we will flourish well.

Thank you . . . on behalf of Moosonee, and we look forward to  
improvements and developing with you.



REMARKS BY

MR. RHEAL COOL

CHAIRMAN

MOOSONEE DEVELOPMENT AREA BOARD

AT THE

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 16, 1978

AT 7:30 P. M.

AT THE

JAMES BAY EDUCATION CENTRE



MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY, LADIES & GENTLEMEN, AS CHAIRMAN  
OF THE M. D. A. B., I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU AND EX-  
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS EVENING.





IN THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 1978, I LOOK FORWARD WITH ENTHUSIASM TO THE MANY ITEMS OF INTEREST BEFORE US. WE WILL HAVE TO FACE MANY PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULT CHORES DURING THE YEAR BUT I AM CONFIDENT WITH THE WORKING EFFORTS AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL BOARD MEMBERS THAT WE WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIONS. THIS BOARD HAS FUNCTIONED WELL AND IS IMPROVING AS WE ARE ALL LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND EFFORT. WE HAVE PRIORITIES NEEDLESS TO SAY AND A FEW I WILL MENTION HERE NOW.

FIRST OF ALL, AS YOU KNOW MR. BRUNELLE WAS TO BE HERE THIS EVENING HOWEVER, DUE TO SOME UNFORESEEN COMMITMENTS HE WILL NOT BE HERE AND ASKED TO CONVEY HIS SINCERE APPOLOGIES.

THE ITEMS I WILL MENTION WERE SUGGESTIONS ALONG WITH SOME SOLUTIONS OR PARTIAL SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. IN ANY CASE THESE PROBLEMS IN THE WRITTEN FORM OF THIS ADDRESS WILL BE SENT TO MR. BRUNELLE FOR HIS ASSISTANCE. MR. BRUNELLE AS WE KNOW IS OUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND IN THE PAST HAS SUPPORTED US ON MANY ISSUES. WE LOOK FORWARD AGAIN TO HIS FULL SUPPORT ON THE FOLLOWING AND WITH GREAT INTEREST AWAIT HIS COMMENTS AND RESULTS.



SOME TIME AGO OUR BOARD WENT TO THE COMMUNITY REQUESTING AID TO LOOK INTO THE SAID SOCIAL DETERIORATION OF MOOSONEE. A GROUP WAS FORMED CHAIRED BY IVOR JONES WITH JACKIE SPINDLOE, BRIAN SUTHERLAND, ROY CHEECHOO, JERRY MCAULEY AND DIANNE WYNNE, TOGETHER WITH GREAT INTEREST AND LABOUR CAME UP WITH A REPORT OF SURVEYED FACTS AND COMMENTS FROM MANY OF OUR CITIZENS. ONE OF THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS CONFIRMED WAS UNEMPLOYMENT. YES... THE LACK OF WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY IS A GRAVE PROBLEM. WE MUST CREATE EMPLOYMENT ... IT MUST BE GOOD MEANINGFULL EMPLOYMENT ... NOT JOB CREATING TASKS WHICH HAVE NO FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT OR PERSONAL PRIDE. SO THEN, WHAT HAVE WE TO DEVELOP IN MOOSONEE?

TOURISM FOR ONE ... TOURISM HAS ENHANCED OUR INCOME AND CREATED SOME SEASONAL WORK. WE MUST DEVELOP TOURISM TO THE FULLEST, FOR WE HAVE MUCH TO OFFER HERE IS MOOSONEE ... OUR CULTURE ... OUR HISTORY OF THE FUR TRADES... OUR TIDAL WATERS AND SO ON DOWN TO JUST PLAIN FRESH AIR. THESE ARE RESOURCES WE MUST DEVELOP AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM SHOULD SIT DOWN WITH US AND ASSIST US IN IMPROVING THIS MUCH REQUIRED LOCAL INDUSTRY.



PEOPLE TRAVEL A GREAT DISTANCE TO COME TO MOOSONEE, SURELY WE MUST MAKE A MORE CONSCERTED EFFORT TO MAKE IT WORTH THEIR WHILE AND CERTAINLY WE MUST MAKE IT WORTH OURS. WE FEEL IMMEDIATE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE OUR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND A LONG TERM PLAN WITH MUCH LOCAL IMPUT FORMULATED SOONEST.

ANOTHER POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS THE ONAKAWANA PROJECT. THIS WE FEEL MUST BE VISUALIZED. ALL SAFEGUARDS TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT MUST BE ASSURED. BUT WE NEED THE EMPLOYMENT TO IMPROVE OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT. WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES THROUGH SOME TRAINING METHODS WHERE APPLICABLE AND POSSIBLE. WE SHOULD CUT THE RITE-OF-WAY FOR A ROAD TOWARDS ONAKAWANA, WE HAVE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY QUITE CAPABLE OF PERFORMING SUCH CLEARING WORK AND OF COURSE THIS WOULD BE IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT AND CREATE MUCH ENTHUSIAM. THE PEOPLE OF OUR AREA SHOULD BE ASSURED PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING WITH THIS PROJECT FOR WE ARE CAPABLE AND WISH TO DO SO.

RECREATION IS ANOTHER AVENUE WE MUST LOOK INTO. IF WE HAD BETTER RECREATION FACILITIES SUCH AS AN INDOOR SKATING RINK FOR OUR CHILDREN THIS WOULD SURELY AID. WE HAVE AN ACTIVE RECREATION COMMITTEE WITH GOOD AND INTERESTED WORKERS. WHEN THEY HAVE ANALIZED THEIR PLANS WE WILL GO FOR AID SUCH AS



WINTARIO. WE HOPE THAT DUE CONSIDERATION WILL BE GRANTED MOOSONEE. WE HAVE UNIQUE SITUATION AND PROBLEMS WHICH DESERVE SPECIAL ATTENTION AND TREATMENT.

OUR RIVER BANK IS ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH REQUIRES ATTENTION BEFORE WE LOSE IT. THE "MIGHTY MOOSE" IS CONSUMING IT SLOWLY BUT SURELY, FOR AESTHETIC REASONS ALONE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MINIMIZE AND POSSBILY TOTALLY ELIMINATE THE EROSION. OUR COMMUNITY KNOWS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AND WE MUST HAVE OUR SAY AND/OR FUNDS TO PERFORM. WHATEVER AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT IS TO DEAL WITH THIS WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET WITH THEM AND STAND BEHIND OUR SUGGESTIONS AND VIEWS.

TO DATE OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. WITHIN MOOSONEE HAS LEARNED MUCH IN WATER AND SEWER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE THEY ARE CAPABLE OF IMPROVING THE EXISTING FACILITIES. THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE FAR TOO INADEQUATE POORLY INSTALLED AND SUB STANDARD IN DESIGN ARE IN DIRE NEED OF ATTENTION. CONSTANT THAWING FROM THE FAR TOO REQUEST FREEZINGS PRESENT A COSTLY CONTINUED BATTLE. WE HAVE AREAS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING TOO PATIENTLY FOR THAT MATTER, FOR THE COMING OF WATER AND SEWERS. SO WE MUST IMPROVE AND EXTEND THESE SERVICES VERY SOON.





TRANSPORTATION... THAT IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT IS IT NOT?  
... NOT ONLY THE ROOT OF MANY DISCUSSIONS BUT SO VITAL IN  
EFFECT TO OUR DAILY LIFE IN THE NORTH. THE HIGH COST OF  
PROCURRING GOODS INTO MOOSONEE IS RIDICULOUS. THE COST  
OF TRAVELLING TO AND FROM MOOSONEE IS RIDICULOUS. IF WE  
ARE TOO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO HELP US DEVELOP THE NORTH  
WE MUST FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO LOWER TRANSPORTATION COSTS.  
WE DISLIKE TO SCREAM FOR SUBSIDIES ALL THE TIME BUT IF THAT  
IS THE ONLY ROUTE THEN WE MUST TAKE IT. AIR AND RAIL COST  
ARE TOO HIGH WE MUST KEEP AFTER OUR NEW NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
MINISTRY TO DO SOME THING ABOUT IT.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES BEFORE US, THERE ARE MANY  
OTHERS WE ALL KNOW. TOGETHER WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION AND  
SUPPORT WE WILL ACCOMPLISH MUCH. SOMEONE JUST SAID RECENTLY,  
ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, THAT MANY CANADIANS ARE JUST  
LOOKING FOR WRONG AND COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FAULTS OF  
CANADA AND NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE SPEAK ON THAT OF CANADA WORTHY  
OF PRAISE. WELL ... WE SAY THE SAME APPLIES TO MOOSONEE.  
WE ALL SHOULD SPEAK OF, ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP THE FINER  
POINTS OF MOOSONEE AND SHOUT DOWN THOSE WHO CANNOT SAY  
GOOD OF MOOSONEE, ALSO POINT OUT THE GOOD AND WHERE IT IS  
FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE IT.



WE ARE HERE AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVES, ONE OF US CAN ALWAYS  
BE REACHED, PLEASE SPEAK TO US, YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE IMPUT  
AND OPINIONS WILL BE APPRECIATED AND OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.  
WORKING TOGETHER IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN STRIVE SUCCESSFULLY.

THANK YOU, AS YOUR CHAIRMAN I WILL DO MY BEST IN COMMUNITY  
INTEREST.

RHEAL COOL

CHAIRMAN



CAZON

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Government  
Publications

SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ARNOLD PETERS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TIMISKAMING RIDING

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER





SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
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BY

ARNOLD PETERS  
  
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PRESENTED AT

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on

February 1, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

ARNOLD PETERS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TIMISKAMING RIDING



No. 299

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment

This exhibit is produced by

*Arnold Peters M.P.*

this *1* day of *Feb* 1978

*S. J. James*

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

PRESENTED FEBRUARY 1, 1978

AT MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

BY ARNOLD PETERS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR TIMISKAMING RIDING



MR. CHAIRMAN:

IN ESTABLISHING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR YOUR COMMISSION, THE CABINET OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE HAS GIVEN YOU A VERY EXTENSIVE AND ONEROUS TASK. YOU ARE, I UNDERSTAND, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE INPUT OF INTERESTED PARTIES, THAT WILL RESULT IN A BLUEPRINT FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. THIS WILL GUIDE THE FUTURE OF THOSE PEOPLES, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT LIVING AND WORKING IN THE VAST AREA OF OUR PROVINCE LYING NORTH OF THE 50TH PARALLEL.

IN YOUR MEETINGS IN BOTH NORTHEASTERN AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANTICIPATED IN THE CONTEXT OF INDUSTRIAL, URBAN TORONTO.

MANY OF THOSE INDIGENOUS TO THE AREA ARE MAKING PRESENTATIONS TO YOU IN WHICH THEY ARE, IN FACT, TRANSFERRING TO YOU THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR PAST AND ANY HOPE FOR A FUTURE THAT WILL BE SUITABLE, ACCEPTABLE AND REWARDING TO THEM AS PEOPLE. YOU MAY WELL FEEL LIKE THE GREAT WHITE FATHER REPRESENTING QUEEN VICTORIA, 75 YEARS AGO. REMEMBER THE PROMISES AND EVEN THE TREATIES SOUNDED GOOD TO A FRIENDLY PEOPLE, BUT THE GUILE AND DECEIT OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IS EVIDENT BEFORE YOU IN THIS AREA OF ONTARIO.

WHY WE PUT SO MUCH HOPE AND EXPECTATION ON THE SHOULDERS OF THIS OR SIMILAR COMMISSIONS IS SURPRISING WHEN WE HAVE ALL BEEN VICTIMS OF THE SAME GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT ALL NORTHERN ONTARIO - BUT HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL, I GUESS.





FOR ME TO INDICATE MY PHILOSOPHY FOR THE LAST FRONTIER IN ONTARIO, I WOULD CALL AS MY WITNESS THE TOWNS OF COBALT, GOWGANDA, MATACHEWAN, LATCHFORD AND HUNDREDS MORE. TAKE GOWGANDA; FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS THE TOWN OF GOWGANDA EXISTED ON THE WAGES AND GALLANT EFFORTS OF PEOPLE WHO TOILED IN THE SILVER MINES OF THE AREA. THE WAGES STAYED AND WERE USED TO DEVELOP THE TOWN, SUPPORT THE STORES AND COMMUNITY. A FEW YEARS AGO, THE LAST MINE CLOSED. OF COURSE, THE WEALTH OF THE GROUND HAD DEVELOPED NEW INDUSTRIES, LOCATED NEW MINES, PROVIDED FOR THE FUTURE CITIZENS OF GOWGANDA AND PAID THE PENSIONS TO THOSE GENERATIONS THAT RETIRED AFTER 20 TO 30 YEARS UNDERGROUND.

LIKE HELL IT DID - THERE ARE NEW MINES DEVELOPED WITH THE WEALTH OF GOWGANDA - IN MEXICO, IN AFRICA AND IRELAND, BUT NONE IN THE GOWGANDA AREA, NO FACTORIES, NOTHING, NO PENSIONS, NO JOBS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, NO NOTHING. WHERE ARE THE JOBS FROM THE SILVER OF COBALT, GOWGANDA, ELK LAKE, ETC? IN THE SOUTH - WHERE ELSE, ALONG WITH THE CREAM OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. KIRKLAND LAKE, TIMMINS AND THEIR RESOURCE, GOLD, SAME STORY - THE WORKERS BUILT AND PAID FOR THE TOWNS, EDUCATED THE CHILDREN WHO HAD TO GO SOUTH BECAUSE NO JOBS WERE PROVIDED TO USE THEIR SKILL. WHERE DID THE CREAM GO? TORONTO AND OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES. THEY PROSPERED ON THE RICHES OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR RESOURCES. NOW IT'S NOT WITH PRIDE THAT MANY OF OUR MINING TOWNS CAN CLAIM WELFARE AS THEIR LARGEST INDUSTRY. IT'S TRUE THAT TOWNS LIKE TIMMINS FOUND NEW ORE AND ALL IS BOOM AGAIN FOR A WHILE, BUT THE END IS INEVITABLE BECAUSE WE DO NOT USE THE RESOURCE TO FINANCE THE FUTURE. FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY, IT'S JOBS TODAY AND TO HELL WITH TOMORROW.



WHAT OF LATCHFORD AND DOZENS OF OTHER LUMBERING TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH? TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, LATCHFORD HAD THREE LARGE SAW MILLS AND HUNDREDS OF EMPLOYEES. CUTTING THE TREES EMPLOYED A THOUSAND MORE. TODAY, THE TREES ARE GONE AND SO ARE THE MILLS, BUT NOT THE TOWNS. THE PEOPLE REMAIN WITH NO RESOURCE THAT CAN PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT.

I'VE MENTIONED THESE TWO RESOURCES, ONE RENEWABLE AND ONE NON-RENEWABLE. UNDER OUR SYSTEM BOTH WERE NON-RENEWABLE BECAUSE PLANTING TREES COSTS MONEY AS DID PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

HOW DIFFERENT IS THE STORY IN MOST PARTS OF CENTRAL EUROPE? THERE, THE PEOPLE WERE NOT GIVEN THE RICH RESOURCES OF NORTHERN ONTARIO AND HAD TO HUSBAND THEIR RESOURCES TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTINUOUS SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR THEIR TOWNS AND CITIES.

HINDSIGHT IS EASY BUT TO LEARN A LESSON FROM IT MAY NOT BE EASY, BUT IT IS WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF THE COST THAT OCCURS TO PEOPLE WHEN THE ONE-INDUSTRY TOWN FACES TOMORROW AS A GHOST TOWN THAT I MAKE THIS INTERVENTION.

THE MID-CANADA CORRIDOR TO THE SOUTH OF COCHRANE IS RICH BEYOND COMPARISON TO ANY AREA I KNOW. LOOK AT THE DISASTER THAT HAS BEFALLEN ITS PEOPLE. THE YOUNG LEAVE AND GO SOUTH, NOT FROM ANY DESIRE ON THEIR PART TO LEAVE THEIR HOME, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BUT TO FIND EMPLOYMENT - TO USE THEIR TALENTS AND EDUCATION AND TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES. WHEREVER THEY GO THEY WILL BE THE LEADERS, THE FAVOURED BECAUSE THEY COME FROM A SELECTED PEOPLE.



TO WORK IN THE MINES 25 YEARS AGO, YOU HAD TO HAVE A PERFECT PHYSIQUE, WEIGHING 150 POUNDS OR MORE, BE STRONG, TRAINABLE AND HAVE A PERFECT HEALTH EXAMINATION - SO NORTHERNERS ARE A SELECTED PEOPLE. EVEN SO, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM GEARED TO CORPORATE WEALTH INSTEAD OF PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT OF OPEN SPACES, CLEAN AIR, WATER AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN HARMONY WITH THEIR COUNTRY.

YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO RECOMMEND A BLUEPRINT FOR DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE 50TH PARALLEL. THE AREA IS NOT SO RICH - HAS A FRONTIER POPULATION NOT LOOKING FOR A NEW TORONTO, BUT IS AN AREA LARGE IN EXTENT BUT WITHOUT WELL-KNOWN RESOURCES. THE QUESTION OF SOME IS HOW SOON CAN WE EXPLOIT THIS AREA? THEY SAY WE ARE NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER AND IT CAN PROVIDE SOME JOBS NOW - TODAY, SO WHY NOT? THE OTHER GROUPS INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF YOUR DELIBERATIONS INCLUDE THE NATIVE PEOPLE. THEY ARE FEW IN NUMBERS AND SCATTERED ABOUT BOTH IN TERMS OF WHERE THEY LIVE AND ALSO IN WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN PROGRESS IN A WAY THAT THEY HAVE NOT FOUND POSSIBLE. THIS MUST, THEY KNOW, BE WITH CO-OPERATION BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FUTURE ENVIRONMENT THEY WANT WHICH MUST BE FREE FROM ASSIMILATION, WITH DIGNITY AND A KNOWLEDGE AND PRIDE IN THE "OLD WAYS OF LIFE", AS THEIR ANCESTORS KNEW IT.

NOW LET US EXAMINE THE KNOWN RESOURCES IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO NORTH OF THE 50TH PARALLEL. ONE OF THE RESOURCES IS THE ONAKAWANA LIGNITE DEPOSIT, LOW GRADE COAL OR HIGH GRADE PEAT; THE QUESTION IS - AT WHAT POINT CAN IT BE FEASIBLE?





THIS WAS FIRST RECOGNIZED IN THE EARLY 1700'S WHEN IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN USED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR COAL IN A FORGE. THE AREA AND THE EXTENT OF THE DEPOSIT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE 1800'S AS APPROXIMATELY 190 MILLION TONS COVERING MANY SQUARE MILES. EVENTUALLY, THE TEMISKAMING AND NORTHERN ONTARIO RAILWAY PASSED THROUGH THE DEPOSIT ON ITS WAY TO THE PORT OF MOOSONEE.

MOST NORTHERN RESIDENTS ARE AWARE OF THE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO ECONOMICALLY DEVELOP THESE WET LIGNITE FIELDS BUT NO TANGIBLE RESULTS HAVE OCCURRED. WITH THE SHORTAGE OF ENERGY OCCASIONED BY THE PRICE INCREASE IN CRUDE OIL, FIRST BY THE OPEC COUNTRIES AND CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE SEVEN SISTERS (MAJOR MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES) OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY BECAME FEASIBLE AND IT CERTAINLY IS TIME TO LOOK AT LIGNITE AS A FUEL SOURCE.

RECENTLY, PROMOTION OF THE IDEA OF STRIP MINING OF THE RAW LIGNITE AND DEVELOPING ELECTRICITY ON THE SPOT. IT APPEARS THAT ONTARIO IS CONSIDERING GIVING THIS RESOURCE TO A PRIVATE COMPANY AND ONTARIO HYDRO BECAUSE SOUTHERN ONTARIO NEEDS IT. SAME OLD STORY. WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE IF, INSTEAD, THE GOVERNMENT, ON OUR BEHALF, DEVELOPED THE RESOURCE, PRODUCED ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRIFIED THE ONTARIO NORTHLAND RAILWAY FROM MOOSONEE TO TORONTO AND THEN MAYBE THE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH COULD REDUCE DRASTICALLY THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE MOST EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ADVANCED RAILROAD ON THE CONTINENT. WHY NOT - IT'S OUR RESOURCE, IT'S OUR RAILROAD, WHY NOT THE NORTHERN PEOPLE GETTING THE PRIMARY BENEFIT JUST THIS ONCE, THROUGH REDUCED PASSENGER AND FREIGHT RATES?

THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER POTENTIAL MINERAL DEPOSITS THAT WARRANT LOOKING AT IN THE BASIN OF JAMES BAY. THE AREA IS VERY LOW IN ALTITUDE, THE HIGHEST POINT BEING LESS THAN 600 FT. THE HEIGHT OF LAND NORTH OF KIRKLAND



LAKE IS ONLY 1060 FT. AND THE ELEVATION OF THE RIVERS IS SUCH THAT FEW MAJOR ESCARPMENTS EXIST TO CREATE WATER POWER NATURALLY. ANY ARTIFICIAL DEVELOPMENTS WILL CREATE GREAT FLOOD PLAINS AS HAS BEEN THE CASE ON THE QUEBEC PROJECTS AT JAMES BAY. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ECOLOGY AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

THE LAND IN THE COCHRANE DISTRICT LYING NORTH OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY LINE IS, IN THE MAIN, POORLY DRAINED BUT HAS A VERY LARGE POTENTIAL FOR CEREAL PRODUCTION WITH HAY, VEGETABLES AND FORAGES ALL POSSIBLE. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE 80 OR SO DAYS - FROST-FREE CLIMATE OF THE COCHRANE-SMOOTH ROCK FALLS-KAPUSKASING AREA WILL SOON BE PRODUCING CROPS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE WITH NEWLY DEVELOPING STRAINS OF CEREAL GRAINS AND EARLY DEVELOPING VEGETABLES. CROPS ARE NOW GROWING IN THE LITTLE CLAY BELT OF TIMISKAMING THAT WERE NOT POSSIBLE TWENTY YEARS AGO. DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD MUST BE HUSBANDED IN A WAY THAT WILL MAKE VIABLE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE GREAT CLAY BELT WHICH, TODAY, IS THE LARGEST UNDEVELOPED AREA OF AGRICULTURE POTENTIAL IN NORTH AMERICA. AGAIN, I URGE THAT IT BE A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE USE FROM IT.

TODAY, ONTARIO HAS NO SEA PORTS AND ACCESS TO WORLD TRADE DEPENDS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY. MOOSONEE AND THE SHIP SANDS AREA ARE THE ONLY FORESEEABLE SALT WATER PORT POTENTIALS IN ONTARIO. IT MAY WELL BE THE ONLY PORT IN ONTARIO WITH ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS IF RENE LEVESQUE HAS HIS WAY AND THE STATE OF QUEBEC BLOCKS ONTARIO'S USE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY (EG. HIGH LOCK FEES).



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, I FIRST VISITED MOOSCNEE AND MOOSE FACTORY AND WENT OUT TO SHIP SANDS TO OBSERVE FOR MYSELF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEEP SEA PORT ON ONTARIO'S NORTHERN BOUNDARY. TO ESTABLISH A PORT THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE MODERN FREIGHTERS AT MOOSCNEE WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE. THE TIDE IS SOMETIMES 10 FT. HIGH AND THE RIVER BOTTOM SHIFTS SO EXTENSIVELY THAT THE LOCAL FREIGHTER CANOES, OPERATED BY EXPERTS SOMETIMES FAIL TO FIND THE CHANNEL THAT EXISTED ONLY THE DAY PREVIOUSLY. I AM TOLD THAT WITH THE CONSTANT SHIFTING OF THE RIVER CHANNELS, DREDGING WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL AND PILING COULD NOT KEEP THE CHANNEL OPEN AS THE SILT MOVES QUITE FREELY.

AT THE POINT KNOWN AS SHIP SANDS, I AM INFORMED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DREDGE AND ESTABLISH A STABLE AND PROTECTED DOCK AREA THAT COULD HANDLE REASONABLE SIZED FREIGHTERS WHICH WOULD OPERATE SIX OR MORE MONTHS EACH YEAR. WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY, ICE BREAKERS AND COMPRESSED AIR TO KEEP THE DOCKS FREE FROM ICE, THIS APPEARS TO BE SUITABLE FOR WINTER BERTHING AS WELL. TODAY, SMALL SHIPS CARRY SUPPLIES UP AND DOWN BOTH COASTS OF HUDSON BAY AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AS WELL AS ANY DEVELOPMENTS - MILITARY OR INDUSTRY THAT IS REQUIRED. SHIPS COULD VISIT THE ISLANDS IN BOTH JAMES BAY AND HUDSON BAY, ALL OF WHICH, I'M TOLD, LIE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

THERE ARE RESOURCES IN THIS AREA, ALL UNDEVELOPED AT PRESENT. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF FISH, SOME GAME BUT MAINLY ISLANDS SUCH AS THE BELCHERS WHICH INDICATE THAT THEIR LARGE DEPOSITS ARE LIKELY MATCHED BY STILL LARGER IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN THE BAY ITSELF AND ARE THE CAUSE OF THE REDDISH COLOR OF THE WATERS IN THE AREA. WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MATCHING THE IRON ORE WITH THE COAL (LIGNITE) AND CREATE A SECONDARY INDUSTRY. THIS WOULD BE AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN EXPLOITATION





OF OUR RESOURCE FOR THE SOUTH AS USUAL WITHOUT ANY FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS WELL AS THE RESTOCKING OF SOME OF THE LAKES. NORTH OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY, THERE ARE LIMITED AREAS OF TIMBER. LIKE ALL NORTHERN FORESTS THAT REACH THE EXTENT OF THE TREE LINE, THEY ARE SPOTTY AND WHEN THE TREES ARE HARVESTED THEY WILL CHANGE THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROBABLY THE WATER TABLE AS WELL. IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO PRODUCE TREES SUITABLE FOR PULP AND CENTURIES WILL GO BY BEFORE THEY CAN BE REPLACED UNLESS NEW STRAINS MORE SUITABLE TO THE ENVIRONMENT CAN BE PRODUCED.

YOUR VISIT HERE TODAY HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONVINCED YOU OF THE UNIQUENESS, THE STRANGE STARK BEAUTY OF A NEW DIMENSION IN ONTARIO AND THAT THIS LAST FRONTIER IS WORTH PRESERVING. IN THE PAST DECADE, THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS HAVE PASSED THIS WAY ON THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS. THEY CAME, THEY SAW AND THEY WERE CONQUERED BY THE VASTNESS OF THE STARK AND SILENT LAND AND REMEMBER AS THEY RETURN TO THE CONTAMINATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WASTE LANDS THAT IN THE NORTH ABOVE THE 50TH PARALLEL THERE STILL ARE CLEAN LAKES, VAST SOLITUDES AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHO CAN AND HOPE TO PRESERVE THEIR PROUD TRADITIONS AS DID THEIR FOREFATHERS. THE ONTARIO NORTHLAND RAILWAY PROVIDES ITS TOURISTS WITH LITTLE BEYOND A GLIMPSE OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE AND YET THEY CONTINUE TO COME. FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION, THEY LOSE LITTLE. THE TOURIST INDUSTRY IS SUCCESSFUL FROM THE ONTARIO NORTHLAND RAILWAY'S POINT OF VIEW AND HOPEFULLY, WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA AND CONTRIBUTE MORE FOR ALL CONCERNED WHEN THE PROPOSALS OF THE BOARD OF TRADE ARE IMPLEMENTED.





HOPEFULLY, I HAVE CONVEYED THE HOPE THAT MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY AND BEST EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE PROBLEM OF THE NATIVE POPULATION. MOST OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITIES HAVE NOT BEEN AFFORDED THE BENEFITS ENJOYED BY THE WHITE PEOPLE AND SURELY THE COMMISSION WILL AGREE THAT THOSE WHO LIVE HERE MUST SHARE IN THE WEALTH OF OUR NATION AND YET IT IS JUST AS OBVIOUS THEY HAVE NOT. I DO NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR THE INDIAN POPULATION AS I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL JOIN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN PRESENTING THEIR CASE CLEARLY AND WITH DIGNITY. FOR ME TO SAY MORE ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS.

UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE ARE AND WILL BE NEW AND EXCITING RESOURCES IN THIS AREA SUCH AS GOLD, ETC., AS IT IS DEVELOPED BUT FOR NOW THESE ARE THE KNOWN RESOURCES OF THE ONTARIO JAMES BAY BASIN.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT BEFORE THE EXPLOITATION BY OUTSIDERS OF THIS UNDEVELOPED AREA, YOUR COMMISSION WILL CAUSE GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY TO PAUSE AND CONSIDER AS A TOTAL PACKAGE THE PEOPLE, THE RESOURCES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA BEFORE ANY MAJOR DECISIONS ARE MADE. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL, FRAGILE COUNTRY AND I BELIEVE HAS RESOURCES THAT CAN BE HUSBANDED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL CONCERNED.

IN CLOSING, PLEASE LET ME SAY - THERE IS NO RUSH. WE NEED JOBS THROUGHOUT ALL NORTHERN ONTARIO BUT DON'T MAKE US SQUANDER THE RESOURCES LEFT TO US IN THIS UNDEVELOPED FRONTIER. SURELY IT'S NOT HERE ONLY FOR AN ALBERTA COMPANY, THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IN TORONTO OR OTHERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO ALL OF US IN THE NORTH THAT THEY DON'T WANT ANY TOMORROW. WE ARE SELFISH PEOPLE - WE WANT JOBS, WE WANT OUR SHARE OF THE GOOD LIFE BUT SURELY WE HAVE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ONTARIO OUT OF PROPORTION TO OUR POPULATION AND HAVE NOT REVOLTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR RESOURCES AND SURELY WE CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WILL BE A TOMORROW AND A DAY AFTER THAT TOO OR WE



WOULD NOT BE TRYING TO PROTECT THIS LAST FRONTIER FOR ITS PEOPLE, SOME OF WHOM HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED.

YOUR COMMISSION WILL CARRY THE ASPIRATIONS OF MANY DIVERGENT VIEWS TO YOUR DELIBERATIONS. YOU WILL NOT SATISFY ALL AND IN THE END THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY MAY NOT IMPLEMENT THEM ALL OR MAYBE EVEN NONE. YOU WILL HAVE FULFILLED YOUR MANDATE, HOWEVER, IF THERE IS A BRIGHT AND JUST TOMORROW FOR THE PEOPLE NORTH OF THE 50TH PARALLEL, WHERE SO MANY HAVE NO TODAY AND EXIST IN A TWILIGHT, WITHOUT HOPE.



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

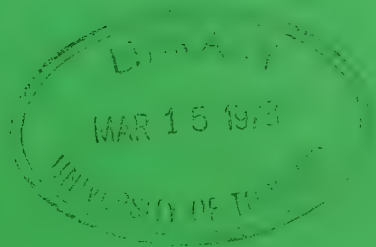
JAMES BAY EDUCATION CENTRE

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



Ontario

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

JAMES BAY EDUCATION CENTRE  
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PRESENTED AT

Moosonee

on

February 10, 1978

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No. 300

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment

This exhibit is produced by

*James Bay Education Centre*

this 1 day of Feb 1978

*S. J. Houser*

SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT MADE BY  
THE RESIDENTS OF THE MOOSONEE-MOOSE  
FACTORY AREA

Compiled By:

Thomas J. Matz  
HARRIES, HOUSER



## INTRODUCTION

The Royal Commission on the Northern Environment was established to determine the effects on the environment, being not only the natural environment, but also "the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence man and the life of man or a community", of major enterprises north of the 50th parallel of latitude. From a list of suggestive categories of such major enterprises, three of four have been concentrated on in this submission in relation to the Moosonee-Moose Factory area given the fact that no major commercial enterprise carries on operation in this area.

The categories of resources which have therefore been discussed by the contributories from the communities of Moosonee and Moose Factory are tourism, recreation, transportation and communications.

Before discussing these topics, it must be remembered that the purpose of this submission is to provide, as concisely as possible and within the time constraints imposed regarding the preparation of such a submission,



a consensus from the Moosonee area as to the current problems faced by the residents of this community. Although we acknowledge that solutions are not simple, we have suggested a few. The views expressed in this submission are those of various residents of this area. It is hoped that with more time, a comprehensive review and study can be made of the developmental problems encountered in the past and anticipated in the future in development of the James Bay Lowlands.

We wish to point out to the Royal Commission at this time that overriding all of the considerations contained in this submission is the overwhelming problem of unemployment in the Moosonee-Moose Factory area. Statistics of the Department of Manpower indicate that of a 300 man labour force in Moose Factory, 1 in every 3, or 100 people, are unemployed. Moreover, it is estimated by local officials that for the combined communities of Moosonee-Moose Factory, having a total population of approximately 3,000 and a labour force of 600, the unemployment rate is no less than 60 percent. Clearly this is unacceptable and must have top priority when considering the need for and the effects of any future development of the James Bay Lowland area.



Our people want to work but there is no work for them. Our people want the opportunity to administer their own affairs but there are barriers which exist because it appears to some that there is a lack of faith in our government to allow the native peoples to manage their own affairs. Our people want to be educated and trained but not in an education system which shows neither interest in nor respect for our native culture. Our Young must be taught to communicate with their elders, otherwise our heritage will be lost. Our people want development but they do not want destruction of their home land. Our wilderness must be preserved.

#### TOURISM

The major aspect of tourism in Moosonee is the Polar Bear Express. This train tour is operated by the Ontario Northland Railway from mid-June to mid-September each year. For the most part, the adventuresome who embark on this journey find it disappointing. Even the name of this trip is misleading. To make matters worse, we suffer distance decay; that is, the interest of the traveller decreases relative to the distance travelled.

Most travellers are in Moosonee approximately 4 1/2 hours before the train departs for the south.





In such a short period of time very little can be accomplished in the way of helping "Southerners" to explore the area and learn about the local Cree culture, assuming of course that is why they came in the first place. It is recognized by virtually everyone in Moosonee and Moose Factory that before tourists will want to remain overnight and explore the region that the native resources must be developed and made available to the the consuming public. However, local input is crucial to the success of any such development.

For example, a wildlife park or zoo set in its natural environment, would go a long way towards satisfying the expectations of many tourists who venture to Moosonee on the Polar Bear Express to see not only a moose but also a polar bear, although it should be noted that polar bears are not indigenous to the Moosonee-Moose Factory area and the Moose River is not the Arctic Ocean. The development of nature trails, parks for camping (a provincial park currently exists on Charles Island: Tidewater Provincial Park) and guided fishing trips could tap this natural resource. Such activities could provide a source for employment for local people. With an abundance of wide open territory, there should be no problem with the establishment of parks and trails. It is to be hoped that such attractions would also alleviate complaints often heard from tourists to the effect that there is nothing to see



or do in Moosonee after a long ride on a train which provokes comments regarding its lack of cleanliness and poor service.

As matters now stand, the native population reaps little of the financial gain generated by the tourist trade and hence have little interest in accommodating the tourist. The native peoples feel exploited and as though they themselves are on display.

In an attempt to solve the problem of an almost total lack of local involvement in tourism, the James Bay Education Centre proposed and attempted to establish a co-operative organization of native peoples from around the coast to encourage the making of handicrafts and artifacts on a commercial rather than a hobby scale. It was hoped that an attempt would then be made to find markets for these products both locally and in the south.

The Chiefs of Kashechewan and Attawapiskat were consulted in this regard and were very much in favour of such an organization. However, because the local entrepreneurs were negative in their response to this project and did not want a building such as the James Bay Education Centre which had been constructed with public money to encourage competition against them, the project died in the formative stages.



It had been the intention of the James Bay Education Centre to not only assist in the organization of a native business group, but also to have programmes run at the Centre to teach small business management to those interested. Marketing techniques would have been discussed. The intent was self-help once given the opportunity. As I have already mentioned, the project died. The initiative is now all but gone. Development of commercial activity in the James Bay Lowlands must be tailored to meet and overcome such problems otherwise it will never become a reality for the native peoples.

As another attraction for tourists, not to mention the preservation of a dying culture, the collecting of Cree artifacts by the James Bay Education Centre and their effective display would help to explain to tourists the way of life of many of the residents of the James Bay Lowland area. Mutual understanding and respect must be encouraged. Although there is an artifact collection being assembled by Treaty No. 9 in Timmins, it must be remembered that for our people Timmins is \$86.00 away by air.

At present, the James Bay Education Centre is hoping to establish an Interpretive Centre in the main foyer of its building. The purpose of this Interpretive Centre will be to display artifacts, maps, photographs and other items that are part of living in the James Bay



Lowlands, such as furs, skins, clothing, utensils, weapons and horns. It is hoped that with the development of an Interpretive Centre, people will have an opportunity to watch as utensils are made, skins are tanned and canoes are built by native peoples. Many local organizations support this Centre not because it would provide an attraction for tourists, but because it would allow the native peoples of the James Bay Lowlands to regain pride in their culture which is slowly dying.

The funding for such an Interpretive Centre is presenting a problem. Although it had been indicated to officials at the James Bay Education Centre that funds would be made available through the museum grant programme administered by the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, such is not the case. We have been advised that special dispensation is required from the Minister. Accordingly, the Honourable Robert Welch, Q.C. Minister of Culture and Recreation, has been requested to provide a grant of \$6,500.00 to initiate this programme. We are anxiously awaiting his reply at this time.

To promote these programmes would provide an opportunity for all people to understand the culture, traditions, and way of life of the northern native peoples and hopefully the social ramifications of development of the area could then be minimized. However, in order for







the development of tourism to benefit this area, local input and involvement must be sought.

### RECREATION

As a geographical area is developed, recreation and facilities must also be developed to provide activities and interests for those involved and their families and friends. At present, very little in the way of sport recreational facilities is readily available to the residents of Moosonee.

For example, on the Canadian Forces Base, which has been closed for approximately 2 years now, there is a small enclosed arena and swimming pool. The arena is badly in need of repair. The size of the ice surface makes it suitable for children only. Being located 1 1/2 miles from town, transportation is a problem for many of the residents since we have no public transportation in Moosonee.

To remedy this situation, the people of Moosonee have commenced a fundraising drive for the purpose of erecting an arena and curling club in town with an artificial ice surface. The estimated cost of such a facility is approximately \$900,000.00. The Government of Ontario has indicated a financial interest in this proposed arena. However, it will still be necessary for a private fundraising drive to generate approximately \$400,000.00 in



donations if ever this arena is to be built. For Moosonee and its residents this is an almost insurmountable task. Even assuming that such a facility could be built, it will be a strain on the meager tax base of the town to provide adequate maintenance for the arena.

Moosonee receives approximately \$50,000.00 in taxes from its residents in each year. No taxes are received from the Moose Factory since it is, as yet, unorganized territory in relation to Moosonee and does not form a part of the Moosonee Development Area Board. An additional sum of approximately \$285,000.00 is contributed annually by the province to the Moosonee Development Area Board. However, these sums of money are used to provide funding for all municipal services supplied during the year to the residents. Clearly then, if a new arena and curling facility is to become a reality for the residents of Moosonee an injection of capital from outside the area will be necessary.

Gymnasium facilities are made available by the Moosonee Recreation Committee to the local residents at the James Bay Education Centre on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday nights for a fee of 25 cents per person per night. The swimming pool located on the former Air Force Base is used all year round and is open to the public for 25 cents per use. The pool is small, the stated capacity is 40



people, but no plans are being made at present to provide a further facility.

From an activity point of view there are two baseball diamonds but no tennis courts and no cinemas in Moosonee or Moose Factory. Night school courses are not being offered because of the current workload being handled by the teachers at the Moosonee High School. The residents of the area have indicated to the Board of Governors of the James Bay Education Centre an interest in evening instructional and interest courses. The Centre would like to satisfy these needs but no one is prepared to fund these courses. Although fees would be charged for each course, an "insurance" fund is a necessity when establishing new programmes.

Related to recreation is the absence of a youth drop-in centre in Moosonee. In the late 1960's the Roman Catholic Mission erected a structure to be used as a youth centre, containing a coffee shop and a common room. The occasional dance and movie were sponsored by the young people of the drop-in centre to raise funds to meet operating costs. However, in the early 1970's the centre was phased out and closed. It was converted into living quarters for students studying in Moosonee. Unfortunately, a replacement youth centre has not been established. This we believe in part accounts for the sharp increase in



juvenile delinquency in the past few years in Moosonee. In one month in mid-1976, 56 cases were on the docket for one Family Court session in Moosonee.

Facilities and activities are needed for the current population. Our purpose in reviewing the current situation is to emphasize that, should development of any kind come to this area, the necessity for recreational facilities will become even more acute. This need must be met otherwise the already serious social problems may become insurmountable.

Our young people are keenly interested in their future and the course of development of the James Bay Lowlands but they do not want to lose their heritage and culture. It is being lost today and the thought of commercial development coming to the area concerns this age group. They do look forward to better roads, communications and standard of living as a result of possible development but they are concerned with the effect on their way of life and environment of any commercial activity. Our youth must be accommodated in any plans for development of our area in the future.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

At present, there are 2 radio stations which can be received in Moosonee, C.B.C. and C.H.M.O.. C.H.M.O. is





is a voluntary radio station which which was established on December 18th, 1975, by seven local individuals who formed a non-profit broadcasting corporation called the James Bay Broadcasting Corporation Incorporated for the purposes of operating a radio station in the area. After obtaining its broadcasting licence from the C.R.T.C., C.H.M.O. officially began broadcasting on February 29th, 1976.

Except for two individuals who are paid by this station, the disc jockeys of C.H.M.O. are volunteers. The salaries of the two paid disc jockeys are made possible through grants received from the Indian Secretariat Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. The radio station broadcasts from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight seven days a week with the two paid disc jockeys being on the air from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.. At all other times, anybody with sufficient expertise to operate the broadcasting equipment is a potential disc jockey.

The funding for the operation of this station comes from few sources. The James Bay Education Centre contributes \$2,000.00 a year toward general expenditures. The Centre also provides C.H.M.O. with rent-free premises and the use of broadcasting equipment which the Centre had purchased from the Canadian Arm Forces when the Arm Forces Base in Moosonee closed. An additional \$25,000.00 worth



of equipment has been purchased by C.H.M.O. through Wintario grants. Funds are also raised from Lions Club dances and youth dances at the local Anglican Church. Little money is generated from advertising mainly because of the lack of potential advertisers. Therefore, any funds raised through advertising are on a donation basis only.

From a development of communications point of view, C.H.M.O. is currently anticipating the purchase of a 180 ft. vertical broadcast tower and the possibility that the Red Cross will donate to the station a 1,000 watt transmitter. A 50 watt transmitter is currently in use. The acquisition of this new equipment would be a tremendous step forward for the local people since this radio station could then be received in the James Bay coastal communities as far north as Attawapiskat. A true feeling of community and understanding could be fostered through such a communication system and this we need.

As matters now stand, local news is slow to reach the native communities of Kashechewan, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat because it must travel by word of mouth. Needless to say, the isolation of these communities is no help to such communication. Physical remoteness leads to a feeling of isolation in all walks of life. Improved broadcasting facilities would go a long way in promoting a free exchange of information and ideas and therefore



an understanding of events as they occur.

It is hoped that in the future C.H.M.O. will be housed in its own building with a broadcasting station in Moose Factory as well as the current one in Moosonee. Although this may seem insignificant to many, such a facility would avoid the problems encountered by the volunteer disc jockeys from Moose Factory at freeze-up and break-up times on the Moose River. As you can appreciate, our natural environment plays a major role in our lives in this area.

With regards to television, one station, C.F.C.L. T.V., a C.B.C. affiliate from Timmins, is available in the Moosonee-Moose Factory area. Although having just one or two television stations may not be uncommon in northern Ontario, the use of the Cree language in the James Bay Lowlands gives added emphasis to the argument in favour of establishing a community television station originating out of Moosonee. A community television station offering local programming tailored to local needs and local culture would be invaluable. Counsel meetings of the Moosonee Development Area Board and educational-instructional programming could be offered to both inform and educate the local people in not only English but also in Cree.



## TRANSPORTATION

One of the major areas of development which concerns the people of the Moosonee-Moose Factory area is the development of transportation. Studies have been conducted such as the Feasibility Study for a Moosonee Access Road conducted by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and released on August 18th, 1975. The conclusion to construct a road north to Moosonee was not recommended at that time. Instead, the government initiated a review of the then-available information on potential resources to assist in the final selection of an alignment for the access road.

Differences of opinion are expressed daily by the citizens of Moosonee-Moose Factory as to the advisability of constructing a roadway to connect Moosonee with the rest of the Province. Many of the native Cree population are not enthusiastic about the building of the road. They feel that it would be the end of tranquility as it is known today in the Lowlands. They feel it would be the end of their beautiful and precious wilderness.

On the other side of the coin, many people, including teachers, feel that the road would help to dispel a feeling of differentness, of not belonging to the rest of Ontario, of isolation, of almost a fear of venturing beyond Moosonee because of the difficulty and expense of returning to visit





family and friends. Such attitudes are common amongst school children in Moosonee. Educators feel that a road connecting Moosonee to the south would offer a potential for mobility which would do much to provide a basis for positive attitudinal change on Moosonee.

A current concern directly related to the construction of a roadway to the south is the proposed development of Onakawana Lignite Coal by Onakawana Development Ltd. Such a development some 60 miles from Moosonee would in all probability require the construction of a "commuter" service to Moosonee for those employed at the mining site. It was stated by Onakawana Development Ltd. in its submission to The Ontario Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning in November of 1976 that "the development of a coal mine and power plant at Onakawana would have both immediate and long-lasting economic and social benefits to Northern Ontario. Capital expenditures in excess of \$700,000,000.00 would provide up to 1,200 jobs during the six year construction period and 500 to 600 sustained jobs during the thirty year operating period [of the plant]." These jobs could provide a much-needed source of employment for the native people.

We agree with Onakawana Development Ltd. that locally generated power should encourage other industry to locate in the area thereby providing a further source of employment for native people. In this regard, we wish to make the following



observations:

1. Economic development of the James Bay Lowlands has been slow. No major commercial enterprise is currently operating in the Moosonee-Moose Factory area. Well-planned and reasoned economic development with input from the native people must be encouraged by the Province of Ontario to provide employment for the people of this area. Onakawana could be a starting point. Our people are most anxious to find employment. However, sufficient lead time must be provided to train individuals to work at jobs which require training. There is this time with the Onakawana Development. Much of the labour force will not be needed until 1980 and onward. The facilities of the James Bay Education Centre should be utilized to provide job training for native people to the fullest possible extent.

Local people must be used if development of the James Bay Lowlands is to benefit those now living in this area, as it should. As an example where this is not the case, the Government of Ontario in its programme of improving communications to West Coast James Bay communities, has hired, and reportedly without public tender, a firm from south of the 50th parallel to open winter roads to microwave tower sites during the winter of 1977-78 while the expertise, machinery and equipment for such a project has been



and still is here, north of the 50th parallel, in the communities of Moosonee, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat. We agree that economic relief of this area will only be achieved through development of the north but one fundamental upon which any development should be anticipated must be that every effort will be made to utilize the human resources which now exist north of the 50th parallel. If this is done, the multiplier effect may be forecasted and unemployment may be eased even further. The creation of an expanded local market providing a stimulus to the local economy could be the result.

On April 26th, 1966, the Honourable John Yaremko, then Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship, granted to the Board of Governors of the James Bay Education Centre a Charter as a non-profit corporation having the following objects:

- (a) to conduct studies in the James Bay-Hudson Bay area of the educational, vocational and social needs of the residents;
- (b) to provide in this area facilities and programmes for basic skill development;
- (c) to provide vocational and employment training facilities and courses;



- (d) to create opportunities for students to learn occupational and domestic skills;
- (e) to develop recreational and cultural programmes; and
- (f) to build and operate an Education Centre to meet the special needs of the people of the area, both children and adults.

These objects this Centre wishes to fulfil and must fulfil if we, the native people, are to participate in and benefit from the development of the James Bay Lowlands. We do not want it otherwise.

The Onakawana development is a prime example of a development which could benefit the people of this area. Native people should be placed on a labour force which they are capable of forming. The original intention of the Board of Governors of the James Bay Education Centre when the heavy equipment programme was instituted at the Centre was with the Onakawana Development in mind. How ironic then that one of the recommendations of the Final Report of the Evaluation of the Moosonee Education Centre which was submitted to the Minister of Education on October 19th, 1975, was the immediate cancellation of the heavy equipment training programme and the disposition of the heavy equipment inventory.





The Honourable William Davis, when still the Minister of Education, in a speech given in Moosonee on the subject of the opening of the Education Centre, emphasized that the Centre would only be successful if the people it served participated in the decision-making process affecting its operation and were involved in the programmes that it offered. The new Board of Directors of the Centre, composed of local people from the James Bay Lowlands, do not want to cancel the heavy equipment programme or dispose of the inventory. They want to train our native people so that they may be ready, willing and able to form a labour force for any enterprise which may come to the area. Two years ago the heavy equipment programme was discontinued because a lack of funds. Hence, the majority of the \$600,000.00 worth of heavy equipment owned by the James Bay Education Centre remains dormant with no people, native or otherwise, being trained at the present time.

Another example of our frustration in fulfilling our objectives is that no funding regarding the apprentice training programmes is available. These are programmes designed to train a northern work force in its native environment. The Ministry of Labour will recognize the graduates by certifying them as journeymen plumbers, electricians, motor mechanics and heavy duty mechanics. However, because



no funding is provided by the Government of Ontario for this programme and because we are not generating sufficient funds to keep these programmes running by themselves, the programmes are in jeopardy.

In the past few weeks we have had requests from the Chiefs and Councils of the Banks at Kashechewan, Attawapiskat and Fort Albany for the training of native journeymen in plumbing, electricity and heavy equipment mechanics since none exist north of Moosonee. A four year course is necessary and we could create the facilities for such a course, but we do not have the financial resources to operate such a programme or house the students.

Many of the people that are needed to service the coastal communities and which will be needed to provide a labour force for the Onakawana development, should it proceed, are here and waiting to be trained. In the past, the James Bay Education Centre and Texas Gulf co-operated and produced a native Class "A" journeyman electrician who is fully qualified. He is the authority on electricity in Moose Factory, being the only qualified native in the community. Of him we are all proud; but, we need others like him.

The James Bay Education Centre wants to fulfil its function and feels that its local Board has not only the desire but also the capabilities of controlling



the destiny of its own people. However, we do not fit into a slot when it comes to funding. We are outside the pattern but so are the native people themselves. The native people have no pattern: when the geese fly, they hunt for food; when the moose calls, they answer.

A co-operative effort on the part of the Ontario Government and Onakawana Development Ltd. could result in the training of our native people, employment for them and the reduction of the severe social problems now existing in Moosonee. If transient workers are brought into the area to provide the labour force for the Onakawana Development, no positive effect will result for the area. Rather, the social problems existing at the present time will worsen. The motto of our Education Centre reads: "Be taught here so that you can follow a new path". The people of this province and this country gave to us this Centre so that we could improve our lives. We need the opportunity now to follow a new path. Dependence upon Government handouts breeds apathy and lethargy. We are a proud people: our heritage is rooted in self-sufficiency. We must regain our self-respect if we are ever to become active agents in society again.



2. Development of possible deposits in the Moose River Basin of oil and gas, uranium and lead-zinc must only be carried out after careful consideration has been made of the effect of such development on the native peoples, their way of life and their environment. Needs must be assessed beforehand to avoid unnecessary expense and problems which often arise through lack of communication and consultation.

As an example of the lack of local input in the decision-making process, decisions regarding the construction of facilities, including this Centre, have been made without local input. Furthermore, two concrete bridges have recently been built in Moosonee, one at Stone Creek and the other at the Quarry. Both are two lanes wide and construction costs ran in the neighbourhood of \$1,000,000.00. Although such structures are impressive, such elaborate bridges were not necessary in these seldom used locations. No local input or consultation regarding Moosonee traffic patterns were sought. In the result, access to the airport, where a great deal of freight is shipped in daily, and access to built up part of town is still by means of one lane Bailey bridges. The method of making decisions such as these cannot continue. Local input must be sought for meaningful and useful assistance and development.





3. Environmental factors must be considered as well as the effects of such factors on the way of life of the native peoples. For example, goose hunting is not recreation for a large segment of the local population; rather, it provides food for their families. These geese have staging areas along the coast of James Bay and in order to safeguard these areas, the Department of Transport passed regulations regarding flight corridors and flight altitudes in the area.

Basically, airplanes must fly at least three miles inland or at a minimum altitude of 3,000 feet over these staging areas. These regulations are not being observed or enforced. Many aircraft fly directly over the staging areas and at altitudes well below 3,000 feet frightening the geese and driving them away. Even the airplanes used by the Ministry of Natural Resources violate these regulations. The ultimate effect of such disturbances could prove disastrous for the native peoples. As the geese move elsewhere, the hunters must follow. Such disturbances must be stopped and preventive measures must be taken to ensure that similar problems will not arise from increased air traffic which would flow from development of the north.



The lack of sensitivity for an understanding of the life of the native peoples of the James Bay Lowlands cannot continue. Only through communication and local involvement will such problems be avoided.

If development is to come to the James Bay Lowlands the life-supporting river systems must be protected. Present dams on the Moose River system have disrupted the quantity of fish in the rivers at Moosonee-Moose Factory which directly affects the sustenance of the native peoples. Proper safeguards need to be imposed to avoid irreparable damage to the ecological system of the rivers. Furthermore, silting in the river systems cannot be ignored. When the causeway was constructed between Moose Factory and Flats Island at the time when the hospital was built in Moose-Factory, severe silting resulted in the Moose River which destroyed the natural anchoring area along the north east shore of Moose Island. Not only can large boats no longer navigate the shallow waters, but even the people with their canoes cannot anchor where they had for 300 years. Such effects must be studied beforehand and avoided if at all possible.

In respect of the Onakawana Development, the area under study is remote and according to Onakawana Development Ltd., little is known regarding the forest, soil and wildlife resources. It may be that on-going



drainage and reclamation work will enhance the area, but, once again, care must be taken not to destroy the ecological balance.

#### Method of Study

Although in other areas it may be appropriate to use public meetings and the submission approach to study and develop policy regarding development and the environment, it is our opinion that this approach will not be effective in the James Bay Lowland area. Such factors as geographical size, lack of communication, isolation and a reluctance to speak in public on the part of many of the native people, militate against such an approach.

The native people north of the 50th parallel now look to you and through you to the Southerners of Ontario to make it possible for our present and succeeding generations to be taught and trained here in new skills as mottoed on our Education Centre, thereby enabling gainful and useful employment quite apart from preserving and enriching our native customs and habits which in the ultimate sense need not interfere with nor hamper progress in the rest of the Province of Ontario or the Country.

In closing it is respectfully submitted that in order for the Royal Commission to understand and appreciate the true concerns of our people regarding development of this area, people should come to this area and experience the day-to-day



life. Ours is not a big community and personal contact is not only possible but desirable. The Royal Commission has the time to use this approach. This we submit would be the best possible way to fulfil your mandate. By sending someone into this area on behalf of the Commission for as extended a period of time as possible an understanding could be gained and this we all need.





The following individuals and organizations have contributed their ideas to us in the preparation of this submission:

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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

MOOSONEE BOARD OF TRADE

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
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PRESENTED AT

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February 1, 1978

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

MOOSENEE BOARD of TRADE





BRIEF to the ROYAL COMMISSION on the ENVIRONMENT  
CONCERNING the LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES, and  
PEOPLES of NORTHERN ONTARIO north of the 50th  
Parallel

PRESENTED BY:

MOOSONEE BOARD of TRADE



## INTRODUCTION

Mr. Justice Hartt, other members of the Royal Commission; we, the members of the Moosonee Board of Trade, as successful businessmen and concerned members of this community, wish to present, in this brief, our views, hopes and aspirations for our community, its surrounding area, and its people. We are businessmen not sociologists, so we must concentrate on business interests and how improvements to our businesses and industries can help our community. We can only surmise how we or anyone else can help the people. Presented to you will be questions, answers, and suggestions that we feel are important to your inquest.

Some briefs that have been presented to you, have dealt specifically with one project or another. As you will see, we wish to delve into several areas of development; development of peoples as well as other resources.

This paper will be presented in sections, each individual yet each linked totally to the others. They concern us directly yet are very general aspects of the overall problems you have been charged to investigate. Included are, economic development of our northern lands (that is our resources ..... natural as well as human), social and cultural conditions as we see them, and tourism (our one major industry).

We would also like to state at this time that some of the ideas and suggestions we will be putting forward are highly controversial and we have no intention of insulting or upsetting anyone. These are our views, once again as businessmen.

As with any other Board of Trade, we are a union of businessmen. Our purpose is to assist each other and the community,



with our motto: to promote jobs, growth, and prosperity.

For this reason, we are presenting this brief to you.



## ECONOMY

Is there a direct relationship between the 'little man on the street' and any large or small business in a community? A rhetorical question; of course there is! Any business or industry provides employment, and this employment leads to more availability of money which in turn yields to greater consumer buying power. An increase in buying power forces businesses to increase or more businesses to open up and this generates more employment and more revenue for the employers, employees and the community. Here, the circle starts again. It is therefore a safe and generally accurate statement to make, that if the individual benefits, so does the community and business and vice versa.

There is a good potential for trade and commerce in this area; but it is a potential that as yet, remains only partially tapped. There is room for expansion of our present facilities, but, without growth, that expansion would be meaningless. What is needed here is an introduction of more and diversified industry, both large and small.

In a brief presented to you by Dr. John Spence of Ottawa, it was stated, and we quote from the Timmins Press 9/12/77, 'Concerning jobs for native people, however, in spite of the hopes of the proponent, native people do not have the skills or inclination for meaningful participation in this type of economic development.' Our question to this is why? Why no skills and no inclination for meaningful participation? We are training people for jobs that are relatively or totally non-existent in this area at the present. What will happen to this skilled labour if new employers are not allowed into this area? Do any of the major





centers of the south require more plumbers, electricians, carpenters, or artists? Can and do they not draw from their own resources? What will happen to ours? If we are going to train our people, we must allow them at least the opportunity to practice their skills. How can we do that? Obviously, by allowing into this area more and diversified industries. We are talking of mining (mineral, gas, or oil), forestry (if applicable), and the myriad of others anyone can list.

It can easily be seen as above, that an increase in economy, economic development if you will, can and would benefit the 'man on the street'. Also, it could only increase our business revenues. As shown earlier, this is part of a self generating circle. This could, and we believe would, not only benefit ourselves but the community by providing better services and more employment opportunities.

It is true, we can survive on what we presently have; but, we (as a community) could flourish on added industries. After all, is static survival what is desired?

In summary to this section, we would like it to be recorded that we feel the resources of the north belong to all the peoples of the province and must be developed and maximized, not to ensure profitability to the resource industries, but to ensure the benefits to the people, benefits ranging from economic to a sense of pride in a job well done.



## SOCIAL and CULTURAL CONDITIONS AS WE SEE THEM

As you have heard, we are exponents of economic development mainly for economic reasons but also some social ones. However, we realize there are problems in this region; problems that stem from many areas. The peoples of this area are looked down on as second or even third class citizens if only by thinking they have no inclination to a days work or participation in industrial development. Could this lack of participation be due to a very high rate of unemployment in this area, unemployment due, to a large extent, to lack of meaningful employment? Who can actively, or with any measure of pride take part in a job he knows is only available as a source of charity? What is desperately required is good, long-term employment in an industry that serves one purpose or another and benefits people, not more social band-aids. We have a chance right on our doorstep to make this transition to active participation if we are willing to take it and the responsibilities that go along with it.

Could it not also be possible that the ease with which government money (welfare, unemployment insurance, and make work projects) is available, has ruined some initiative and inclination to meaningful participation in industry? If this is even remotely possible, it is our responsibility to rebuild the pride, pride in person and prosperity, that once did exist. One way of doing this is through vocational or on-the-job training programmes. However, as pointed out earlier, this is a meaningless task if there are no jobs available. Onakawana wishes to open a large development in this area and is willing, according to their spokesmen, to hire local peoples if they have the necessary skills for the available jobs.



We should be charged, as businessmen, with the responsibility of the training and industry, with the responsibility of job availability. Government should be controlling both, not hindering one or the other. We would wish Onakawana to move in, and possibly it will be the key to opening and developing the north.

Another aspect of the problem in this area is excessive indulgence. Could this possibly be due to too much time not partaking in something productive? We believe that an increase in economic development of the area would probably not solve this problem, but may reduce it. There is most likely only one way of finding out! People must have goals for themselves, goals for their future. They cannot afford the luxury of living just for today or yesterday. Employment opportunities can provide the vehicles by which one can reach for his goals.

An area that should be of major concern to us all is the very quick death of the skills and trades that have been passed down from our forefathers. This is true of the white, indian, and metis communities. We are swiftly giving up our heritage in order to assimilate into todays push-button society. In the north, the small communities are more suscepitable to this due to isolation and our need to play missonary and force our ways to the forefront. This is not right, yet the vast resources of the north are required by many and the conflicts between cultures must meet head-on. We are not advocating the sacrifice of the few for the many. We are saying that the economic resource development of the north is necessary but under such controls as not to totally destroy the cultural backbone of the areas into which the industries move.

We do not have all the answers if any. As stated, we are not



sociologists; we can only use and hope others use common sense when planning the future of the north. Progress will eventually dominate and it is our responsibility, as yours, to ensure this domination is controlled and the transition gradual, not overnight. Our different heritages must be preserved while, at the same time, assimilated to form a total union of our peoples.





## TOURISM

Tourism, what more need be said? Throughout the country, it is one of the larger industries. In this area, it is our single major industry. But, as is well known, tourism in the north is seasonal. For our major source of revenue, other than government money, we are dependant on the whims of a public whose resources are dwindling yearly. It has been stated that single resource communities are vulnerable to the wild fluctuations of world resource marketing and the erosion of their economic base as their resources dwindle. This can also be said of communities that have small industries but are primarily dependant on one large one. Our resources, the ones the tourists come to see, are non-renewable but not being used. They should last forever. However, one cannot depend on this. We must prepare ourselves by bringing in heavy industry, industry that will create numerous jobs and will remain in the area on a long-term basis. It can be said that tourism is to the Moosonee area as nickle is to Sudbury. If our major industry fails, it can only mean severe problems to the community.

There are many plans presently being discussed to enhance and enlarge the tourist trade, but these are futile if the tourist cannot afford to come to the area. Over the past few years, it has been noticed that the numbers of tourists and the dollars per person being spent have been dropping. In the present financial atmosphere, monies are not as readily spent by individuals. This is another reason we must have more and diversified industry in this area.

As stated earlier, we can survive with what we have if general



conditions around us do not deteriorate. An increased tourist trade would certainly be worthwhile and beneficial but would still leave the fear of a collapse hanging over our heads.

In summary, we need the tourists but we also have a great need for other development, employment, stability and revenue. This can only come from outside industry over a long period of time.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT of our NATURAL RESOURCES

What do we of the James Bay Lowlands have in the way of Natural Resources? This is relatively easy to answer; mining (mineral, oil, gas), hunting, fishing, history, our ecology, and our people. To a great extent they are not being touched and there is an absolute wealth here that is required by vast numbers of people throughout the province.

We are isolated and this allows for a place to get away to for a quiet rest. While here, the tourist can examine and appreciate our history for it is his as well as ours. This, some of the tourists are looking for. With hunting and fishing, again quite seasonal, we draw sportsmen from all over North America. However, for the short period of time these people are here, they are at their camps and leave relatively nothing in the way of revenue.

This leaves only our mineral and like resources to be developed. Here, we are into a very complex subject. We feel that development is necessary but must be controlled. We, as a community, and the government must work jointly to ensure controls are instituted and carried out. Unfortunately, it has been found in the past that controls are necessary to protect our environment and people. How and where must these controls start? They must, we feel, start right at the northern development planning stage. The numbers and types of industries coming into the area must be controlled. We do not need several industries coming in, doing their development and then moving out en masse. Isolated, piecemeal development has never and will never be a satisfactory answer for the north. The introduction must be controlled and co-ordinated for long-term arrangements. Also, if the developing industries require on-the-



site communities, these must be strickly controlled so as not to be an ecological hazard or an eye-sore. Finally, all the environmental controls that are available must be used where applicable; for it is utter foolishness to develop one resource while destroying one or more others.

We agree with the suggestion presented to you by the town of Kapuskasing that the known natural resources, potential power sources, and proposed corridors be examined and a plan of action determined. Such a plan should not be amended unless your commission, or a similar one, holds public meetings and amendments are recommended. This would put a control on arbitrary government decisions. In union with this, there should be a three party agreement between the province, the community, and the particular industry which could not be reduced or abandoned by any one of the three.

With these and any other controls that are necessary, we feel that the economic development of the north could be a successful adventure allowing a harmonious union with all parties concerned - the people, industry, and governments.





## SUMMARY

In summary, we as a Board of Trade, reiterate the view that no one minority should be able to control or dictate the future of the north lands above the 50th parallel. All people should be able to share and benefit equally from the resources that are available. Two premises must be accepted. These are: first, the development of the north is necessary and second, development is enevitable. Our resources are required by too many.

It is up to us and this commission to lay the ground rules and ensure these rules are adhered to. We do not wish to see the environment or people sacrificed in the rush for resource revenue.

Onakawana could be the key to opening the vast riches of the north. Also, it could be the example of how to introduce large industry to this area beneficially.

We are not interested in growth for growth's sake. It must have goals and meaning that will benefit all people and it must be fully controlled so that the area is not exploited and left empty.

We cannot accept the idea that nature should be left totally alone. Everyone benefits from nature and its destruction would affect all. But man has made himself dependant on nature and must use it and work with it to survive. Therefore, we look forward to its controlled development and the beneficial opening up of the north.

We thank you for your time and your efforts in this matter of extreme importance and we now leave it in your hands.



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BY

MOOSONEE PUBLIC SCHOOL

GRADE 7 - 8

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
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SUBMISSION TO  
  
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*B Marshall*

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from

MOOSENEE PUBLIC

SCHOOL



A SUBMISSION TO THE  
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ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

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Moosonee Public  
School



## IMPROVING TOURISM

In Moosonee - Moose Factory area the main source of income in the summer is the tourism industry. It has been suitable in the past, but it could be improved in the future. Below are some examples of how the tourist industry could be better.

This may include several things such as arctic wildlife zoo being constructed. It would contain several species of wildlife.

The Polar Bear Express train rates could be cheaper, and the passenger cars would be much cleaner. Also the Moose Factory Fort could be re-constructed like several other forts of this type, such as St. Marie among the Hurons.

A few more sightseeing facilities would increase tourism, by having more helicopters and boats tours.

A winter carnival should be an annual event, because it enables the local people to have fun and enjoyment.

The Moose Factory staff house which was bought by the Board of Tourism, could be developed into an historical fur trading museum.

There are numerous reasons why we feel that an improvement in the tourism industry would be profitable.



First of all, it would provide job opportunities or more income for the local labour force.

The Cree culture here would be spread out throughout the country. The money from the tourist industry would help us develop facilities in Moosonee. It has several advantages it's renewable resource and it is not harmful to the environment or wildlife.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Transportation and communication assume great importance in the town of Moosonee and Moose Factory. The transportation methods that are present are the ONR rail service, vehicles, Austin Airways air service, and freighter canoes. We think one way of improving transportation in the Moosonee area is constructing a highway from Cochrane to Moosonee. This highway would enable us to travel from Moosonee to other communities and cities. Since the unemployment rate in Moosonee and Moose Factory is fairly high, the highway will allow Moosonee residents to travel to jobs south of Moosonee. This highway would also allow us to travel south to see our relatives or families more easily. We would also be able to have a wider variety of goods than we have now. This highway would benefit the tourist because of the money and the time saved. It would also be cheaper for the residents of Moosonee area.





Another way of improving transportation for the Moosonee area is by adding more facilities to the present airport. We would like it improved in such a way that larger planes could land, more flights, and overall, better service.

Paved roads would also be an improvement. It would eliminate the cost of oiling the roads in the summer. It would also be faster and more efficient for driving in the community. The paved roads would help prevent the rusting of vehicles.

These methods of updating transportation would end the isolation of Moosonee and Moose Factory. It would end isolation from all other cities.

Communication is also important in the lives of the residents of Moosonee. The sources of communication we presently have are CFCL and two radio stations. CHMO and CBC. We think that TV services can be improved by having more channels and more interesting programs. This might help to keep youth off the streets. If youths are not on the streets as much it would cut down on the total law-breaking.

Although transportation and communication have improved greatly over the past decade, we still feel improvements are needed to join Moosonee to the rest of the Province.



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BY

MOOSONEE RECREATION COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



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E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



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from

MOOSENEE RECREATION COMMITTEE



NORTH OF 50

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

To: Mr. Justice Hartt

From: Mr. Jacques Begin  
Director of Recreation  
representing the Moosonee  
Recreation Committee

As you have heard before and will most likely hear again, there is a great lack of recreation facilities in northern Ontario.

Here in Moosonee, a great deal more people would be involved in the programs offered if only we were to have a decent facility to participate in. Just with a regulation size arena, we would have more people participation whether it be in the recreational activity itself or just to sit on a committee.

Recreation is a very high priority in this community but there is a great lack of funds for it. Recreation is a must here because of the high unemployment problem.

As Mr. Ivor Jones, Director of the James Bay Education Centre has mentioned earlier, a high rate of court cases was noted. Since the summer of 1977 a sharp decrease of cases was noted by the Ontario Provincial Police here in Moosonee. The main cause was because of the recreation programs offered to the public.

Transportation is also hindering recreation. It is difficult and very expensive to even bring someone in to qualify our lifeguards. Also expensive to attend conferences, training sessions and meetings.

In Northern Ontario, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation's grants for operational and salary costs are the same as in southern Ontario where their costs would be much less and fund raising is much easier. Grants should be increased for communities in northern Ontario.

I personally am hoping that some action will be taken to help the Recreation Departments in northern Ontario to provide the best services to the people of their communities.



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BY

DANIEL SPENCE

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



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THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

DANIEL SPENCE  
MOOSENEE, ONTARIO

PRESENTED AT

MOOSENEE, ONTARIO

on

February 1, 1978

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from

DANIEL SPENCE

MOOSENEE, ONTARIO



PRESENTATION TO JUSTICE HARTTFROM MR. DANIEL SPENCE, MOOSONEE, ONTARIORoyal Commission on the  
Northern Environment  
This exhibit is produced by*Daniel Spence*this 1 day of *Feb* 197*7**Sgt. W. A. ...*

Mr. Commissioner:

I would like to talk about something which I am not happy about. It is the way our Indian people are treated in local jails.

In these jails, they are sometimes beaten by the O.P.P. while there are no witnesses to see this happening. It is the Indian's word against the O.P.P.'s.

It is the Queen's responsibility to investigate the abuse of power of the O.P.P. while carrying out their duties.

One of our young people was found hanging in the local jail of the O.P.P. detachment of Moosonee. This young man's fate was death in his own land.

I, myself, was in jail also. It was like drinking a full cup of my own blood which was a result of the injuries I received from police officers in that jail. Also, my son, was given the same treatment.



Another thing, my wife was hit by a car driven by a whiteman which caused severe injuries. This is the way our people suffer in their own land.

Incidents like these, to name a few, should be subject to immediate investigation by the proper authorities so that our people will not suffer in the future.

Thank You!



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BY

THE NORTHERN NATIVE EDUCATION COUNCIL

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
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COMMISSIONER





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from

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No. 305

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment

This exhibit is produced by

*Northern Native Education Council*

this 1 day of Feb 1978

*S. J. W. W. W.*

SUBMISSION TO THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

THE NORTHERN NATIVE EDUCATION COUNCIL



Mr. Justice Hartt, it feels good that you are here and that we are able to talk to you. I want to welcome you and your staff, on behalf of the Northern Native Education Council, to our northern communities in the Treaty #9 area. We hope that your visit and subsequent visits to this area will be warm and friendly besides being a learning experience.

This submission concerns an area which we believe is very important to us in terms of achieving our goals of self-sufficiency, self-realization and self-government. We believe that education is the tool we need to become an independent people. However, we wish to point out that there are serious flaws in the use of this tool. We wish to point out how we feel this tool should be used for Native people.

#### THE NEED FOR A MEANINGFUL AND RELEVANT NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

To make this point clear, we wish to inform you that formal education has been available to the Native communities in the Treaty #9 west area for at least twenty-five years, this being a conservative estimate for some communities. This education was imposed upon us rather than given to us to determine how we would use it. As can be expected it has been a failure.

Within those twenty-five years, the education system has produced in our area only two university graduates that the Council is aware of, countless elementary, secondary and post-secondary school dropouts, a large absenteeism record and indifference to education as a whole by the community members. These problems are not unique to us. They are shared by our brothers and sisters across the country. I'm sure that at one time or another you may have heard about the high drop-out rate among Native students as compared to non-Native students.





However, we feel that the problems we have in this area can only be solved by ourselves.

The major flaw that we see in the past and present education systems is that they are irrelevant to us and to our way of life. We want an educational system that is relevant. Only recently has there been major efforts by our leaders and other concerned people to achieve this goal. However, there is still much to be done.

In trying to determine what constitutes relevance in Native education, we have come up with the following conclusions:

- 1) Education must be meaningful to the student. It must be something which he can understand and relate to
- 2) It must satisfy the needs of the student, needs which are largely determined by the environment in which the student lives. It must continually satisfy his needs and give him the motivation and the interest to continue his education
- 3) It must enhance the culture and the identity of the student and give him a positive outlook on life
- 4) There must be community involvement, particularly by the parents. It is their children who will have to go through the education system. Other groups, such as the Elders, band councils, school committees, teachers and the students themselves must also be involved
- 5) The educational system must be able to prepare the Native student to function in the dominant, white society. It must give him a good knowledge and



understanding of that society. It should teach him clearly what the values are being pressed on him.

Previous educational systems failed to come up with these points in a total package. We feel that any educational program for Native people must have all of these in order to be successful and relevant.

To clarify these points, we feel that a student must first learn about himself and his environment. It would be wrong to force a student when he first enters school to learn something that is totally alien and strange and expect him to understand it. Only after increased awareness of himself and his environment should he be allowed to learn more about other people and other environments. In other words, his learning process must start from his immediate environment and expand from there. We feel that only through this process can you satisfy his needs and give him the interest and the motivation to increase his knowledge and continue his education.

An educational system should not be a means of destroying a way of life. Rather it should enhance the culture and the identity of the child. We cannot emphasize this point too strongly. It is a fact that the kind of education given to us in the past for the most part ignored the Native people and their culture. Any mention of the Indian people was written with a biased or a negative viewpoint. Also, it taught us about a way of life which was alien to us. By teaching us this new way of life and ignoring our own or giving it a negative view, we feel that education was used as a means to implement cultural genocide and the assimilation of our people into the dominant society. However, as with most things imposed upon us, this failed to succeed.



We do not intend to be negative, but we feel that this is necessary to make our point very clear. Education will be relevant and meaningful to us only when Native people control their own education and decide for themselves the kind of education they want to give to their children.

We wish to emphasize again that education should maintain and enhance the culture and the identity of the student. From a philosophical view-point, we feel that each person needs something to stand on, a foundation on which to base himself and his identity. This foundation is his culture, that culture being his total way of life. Take away or ignore any part of his culture and you weaken the foundation that he stands on. To illustrate this point, take a building as an example. If that building is to be a solid structure, it must have a strong foundation. Build the foundation poorly and the building will not stand too long and have other deficiencies. Destroy that foundation and the building will fall down.

You are aware by this time of the social ills which face our people. Their inability at times to face and tackle these ills is due to the fact their foundation has been weakened or destroyed, along with their pride and motivation to continue to be meaningful to themselves and to life. We want our children and young people to be given the chance to maintain the pride they have now and gain the motivation to want to be meaningful to themselves and to life. We feel that only through enhancing the culture and the identity of the student can he find that meaningfulness.

We do not mean to say that we will ignore other ways of life, particularly the dominant, white society. However,



we realize that the present educational system is not only teaching facts, such as the Kings of England, to our children, but also values and social customs of white society. It is teaching these values as if they were the only way of dealing with life. These values contradict the instruction the children receive from their parents and Elders. We know our values have to be incorporated into the educational system if our culture is to be maintained. However, we realize that culture is a constantly changing thing. We know that we have to adopt from your culture and other cultures those things which will benefit us. Adopting and accepting from other cultures those things which will add to our foundation, giving us a stronger sense of identity is only logical to us if we are to survive as a people. However, we must stress that the retention of our culture is very important.

We also realize the need to co-exist and achieve a better understanding between your people and ours. Previous presentations by our leaders, and especially our Elders, have stressed this point. We want a type of education that will create this understanding. The idea of being adversaries in everything we do and being unable to work together is not acceptable to us. It should not be acceptable to your people. Rather, the idea that we are all part of the same circle should be emphasized to our children for we will always be here and your people have established themselves permanently on this land. An understanding and acceptance of each other is necessary for our co-existence.

We used to have an educational system which was unique in that it involved every member of a family. The Elders and the grandparents were involved in the philosophical and





theoretical part of teaching. They taught the mysteries of life and of the world. The parents were involved in the practical aspects, teaching the child how to survive by showing him how to do things. The child was expected to learn by himself by being sent to the bush alone to achieve his spiritual development. The child, through this learning process, was given direction and the motivation to want to learn about life and to want to become a meaningful and successful part of that life.

This inspiration is lacking today because there is no involvement by the members of the community. The responsibility of providing education to the child should be given, not only to the teachers and the government agencies, but also to the parents, Elders and other members of the community through their active involvement. It should be the community as a whole that should be giving direction and deciding the kind of education their children should have. We feel that education in the past failed and is failing today because there is no involvement by the community members.

We could go on and criticize almost every education program our children are subjected to. However, you yourself will have a chance to see the kind of education the government is providing for our children. In the next three years, you will be visiting our communities. You will experience our people and our way of life. Go into the schools and see if the education provided has any relevancy. You will see and understand better what we are trying to impress upon you in this submission.

Finally, we would like to point out that the Northern Native Education Council represents the western region of the Treaty #9 area. Our Board of Directors are the Chiefs from this area and they are also members of the Board



of Grand Council Treaty #9. You have already heard of the aspirations and hopes of our people through the briefs given by our Chiefs. We support the position of Grand Council Treaty #9 and their objectives and goals. We also support their position on how to conduct the Formal and Community hearings. However, we would like to impress upon you the special problems we have in the north regarding transportation, communications and accommodations and that you should keep these in mind when arranging your schedule.

We would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to make our problems known to you.



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTH COCHRANE DISTRICT

FAMILY SERVICES



PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
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THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTH COCHRANE DISTRICT  
FAMILY SERVICES  
C.P. / P.O. Box 188  
Kapuskasing, Ontario  
P5N 2Y3

PRESENTED AT

Moosonee

on

February 1, 1978

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# North Cochrane District Family Services

(Operated by the Kapuskasing and District Children's Aid Society)

## Services Familiaux du District de Cochrane Nord

(Sous les auspices de l'Aide à l'enfance circonscription de Kapuskasing)

JACQUES MARTEL M.S.W.  
DIRECTEUR / DIRECTOR

TEL: 335-2301  
C. P. / P. O. BOX 188  
KAPUSKASING, ONTARIO  
P5N 2Y3

### SUBMISSION TO THE HARTT COMMISSION

By: The North Cochrane District Family Services

We are addressing your commission under your mandate to determine the effects on the environment of major enterprises north of the 50th parallel.

Culture has been defined as man's collective response to his environment and the following statement included in the Declaration of Nishnawbe-Aski by the Objibway-Cree Natives of Treaty #9 to Premier Davis and his Cabinet dated July 6th, 1977 reads:

"We have a sacred respect for the Land, you have alienated life and land by the exploitation of the Natural Resources. As a result of your greed, there is a real possibility that our environment will be destroyed. If it is, we will be destroyed because we are part of nature".

This statement indicates that in the minds of the Native people, much has been done already to disrupt the native culture and if this commission is not effective, much more disruption, if not destruction, will be effected.

Let us first of all establish our concerns, problems, mandate, and direction in the district which we service.

Our mandate is to administer the Child Welfare Act within the area representing North Cochrane District and by agreement with the Kenora and District Children's Aid Society, to administer on a fee for service basis, the western costline of James Bay from Kashechewan to Fort Severn encompassing the communities of Attawapiskat and Winisk.

We have had a regional office in Moosonee since 1973 staffed by a Native worker for four years, and staffed by a White worker since September, 1977. We have been without staff for five months and under our complement of two staff for two years. This is due to our difficulty in recruiting either native or non-



native staff to work and administer the service as it presently exists. Since 1973, we have had six native staff who found it impossible to continue for many reasons. Some of which are listed below:

1. Fear of Native workers to administer the Child Welfare Act to the Native population, e.g., four workers refused to work with relatives regarding apprehensions.
2. Fear of physical or emotional reprisal by clients directed towards worker and/or family.
3. There are few Native persons adequately trained and willing to come here to work.
4. Difficulty in finding White persons with the sensitivity to do the job appropriately.
5. Loneliness and isolation experienced in adapting to the life style.
6. Inadequate University and College training for Rural Social Work Practice.
7. Language difficulty for White workers.
8. Inadequate housing.
9. Inadequate financial compensation.
10. Travel expectations up the coastline make it difficult for a family person.
11. Poor job opportunity for other spouse in Northern Area.
12. Transportation system makes it expensive to leave the community for vacation period.

As a consequence, the Agency has incurred high advertising costs:

1. Expensive time spent in interviewing.
2. Overtime for staff covering from Kapuskasing.
3. High travelling expenses to cover from Kapuskasing.
4. High accommodation expenses.
5. High telephone costs to handle emergencies by telephone.

From the service aspect, the consequences have been as follows:

1. Inadequate services in the area North of the 50th parallel, mostly emergency and patch up services.
2. Lack of continuity in services. Difficulties in keeping accurate records when different staff are involved in the same cases.
3. Confusion of clients and community because information sometimes varies with each worker who has a different perception of the problem and who sometimes has information the other worker does not have.



4. Problems are not perceived until they become emergencies and most often require the child/children to be apprehended from the family and placed in alternate care as opposed to helping the family manage itself before a crisis is reached.
5. Where there is only emergency service, alternate care within the community is not provided or built up so as we find ourselves in the position where we have 126 children in care as of October 31, 1977,—49 of which are status Indian, 13 are Metis. We have 12 Foster Homes in which one or both parents are Native or native speaking out of a total of 117 Foster Homes. Within the Foster Care settings, we have placed 13 Native children in 12 native homes and 45 Native children in non-native Foster Homes and one child presently away without leave.
6. With insufficient staff, we have been unable to engage the Native communities north of the 50th parallel in the kinds of dialogue necessary to arrive at a meaningful service to support a family life that is now hard set by unemployment, landlessness, alcoholism, and poor housing, and an education system, that rather than complementing the traditional native values, is endeavouring to supplant it with white values and traditions.

It seems as if experience has taught us that we need to explore alternative ways of servicing the area by initiating discussions with the Chiefs and Band Councils, and other native organizations and agencies living and working north of the 50th parallel.

Our Board, in its discussion with the Council of Constance Lake, Reserve 92, is accepting the principle that the solutions to problems encountered by Native families should come from within the local community and the right to deal with those problems rests primarily with the Native people. In keeping with this principle, we as an administrative agent of the Provincial Government, are prepared to enter into negotiations with the local Band Council to serve as a resource to them in identifying needs and providing resources to meet these needs appropriately.

The recognition of this principle raises a multitude of questions that relates to our service to the people living north of the 50th parallel, e.g.:

- What new mechanisms will evolve to assure accountability for service to and by the Native people?
- How will these mechanisms relate to the existing ones? and to the funding sources?
- How should we best appropriate our resources, skills, and experience to the Native workers and community?

At present, we are aware that the Federal Provincial agreement is being reviewed and we are hopeful that they too are listening to your hearing for direction and recommendations.




It is our opinion that progress will only be best served if it respects the basic philosophy of Social Work, i.e., Self Determination.

Thank you.

Prepared by:   
Mr. Roy A. Walsh,  
Coordinator of the  
In Care Services Team.

  
Jacques Martel,  
Local Director.

  
Ron Pulsifer,  
President of the  
Board of Directors.

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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT  
BY

MOOSONEE METIS & NON STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
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ROYAL COMMISSION  
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ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST  
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TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4W 1A5



S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

ON BEHALF OF

MOOSONEE METIS & NON STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION

BY

BONNIE TRAPPER (MRS.) PRESIDENT



Justice Hartt and Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today we are gathered in this gymnasium to express our various views and opinions as to what we feel should be happening and what is happening.

Let us look for a brief moment at the cover of the information package provided by the Commission for the public. If you notice, there is a picture of geese in the fall. In this picture is a lone goose which appears behind the rest of the flock in the distance.

Is the lone goose behind because he doesn't know his role or is he confused?

We, as Metis people, often feel like the lone goose and become confused as to our position with relation to society in general, and like many of us, I'm sure, when it comes to Economic, Social and Cultural development, we just stay behind and watch at a distance because we are confused at what is going on.

As it is well apparent today we are not sitting behind. We are expressing our feelings about the North, and it gives us a great rewarding feeling when there is some one here primarily to listen instead of questioning the motives behind everything we say.

The commission will be hearing many views and priorities of different individuals, associations and organizations.

Here in Moosonee there are approximately 400 Metis people.

Our priorities are in Education, Housing, Employment and Recreation.

Regarding education, we have, in Moosonee, two elementary schools and one high school. It is my belief that the primary function of all educational systems in this area should be to promote unity among the different elements in our community as well as a feeling of confident participation and equal progress with the rest of Canadian Society.

In addition, regarding Education, we are constantly being told to gain as much education as we can. This view seems slightly idealistic, when one is faced with the reality of high unemployment and a lack of job opportunities which we, as a semi-isolated community, must face.

It appears sad that so many of our young people today either accept defeat through the lack of employment, or must leave their native area in order to use their acquired skills in the South where they may or may not be lucky enough to be hired.





With regard to employment, when the Onakawana mine opens, hopefully, this will create jobs for the people in our area, but out of these jobs, what percentage will be open for the residents of Moosonee and Moose Factory and the coastal communities will it be 1/4, 1/3 or 1/2?

I certainly hope it would be as close to 1/2 as possible, because we are suffering from a high rate of unemployment.

Consequently, because of the unemployment rate, it puts serious stresses on many families in this area.

On the other hand, we can't just have more opportunities for employment and not take into consideration the problems of housing and recreational facilities.

If the population in our community is to increase, we must have adequate housing in a price range which people will be able to afford.

We have at present, recreational facilities which are adequate for the community's needs as we now stand.

In the James Bay Education centre, the gymnasium is normally open at night for various sports activities. The Metis Community Hall, which will be open to all members of the community this coming summer, will house a drop in centre for the youth, as well as being available for various organizational activities.

Swimming, Curling and Hockey facilities are housed at the former Canadian Forces Base and are adequate, but inconvenient for the majority of the community due to the distance involved. This is why we would strongly recommend as much aid as possible in the financing of the proposed new indoor/outdoor recreational complex in downtown Moosonee. This would result in a modern, easily accessible facility which would be entirely adequate for our present needs and go a long way towards meeting the needs of an increased population.

In closing, I would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to present this brief. I hope, as a result of the hearings here in Moosonee, that we as a community will have the chance to unite and progress, not only through our brief, but also on behalf of all others who have presented briefs. THANK YOU.

*Kenne Lapper.*



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THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

JAMES JOSEPH LOCKE

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
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THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
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EXHIBIT # 308

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by

JAMES JOSEPH LOCKE

*James Joseph Locke*

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

JAMES JOSEPH LOCKE



Almost every body in Moosonee and Moose Factory live off the land in some way, for instance we use for clothing, food, living space, hunting grounds to look at, to be proud of, for beauty, And then for some foolhardy money greedy company to come in and take it away, ruin it. sure they said it'll be okay. But...look whats happened to Eliot Lake, look at the problems there having and the pulp and paper industries, polluting the water with mercury, killing fish, and the animals that eat the fish and people. lets look at the problem that giong to afect us the most."Awna Cawawna is nothing but a big swamp" so say the mining industry. But their wrong. My parents and I went out in the so called swamp. We saw ten grouse one Saturday and more than that on Sunday, not counting the two magansers and some moose tracks and some bear tracks. and the trees and the bog, ugly, rotten, swampy, so called but some of them are hundreds of years old and the bog probly develept futher the glacier melted. so I'm asking you is it worth it, worth the money, worth the jobs, is it really worth it.

Jimmy Locke.



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BY

WA-WA-TA NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY

PRESENTED AT

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ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT  
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WA-WA-TA NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY



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WA-WA-TA NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY

BRIEF TO THE HARTT COMMISSION

ON THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS

IN THE TREATY #9 REGION



SUMMARY:

MR. COMMISSIONER, WE WISH TO PRESENT TO YOU A BRIEF ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TREATY #9 REGION, A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE IN PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO DATE, AND A SET OF GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THE TREATY #9 AREA. WA-WA-TA BELIEVES THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS IS VITAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TREATY #9 REGION. A RELIABLE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CAN ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO SHARE AND DISCUSS INFORMATION THEY NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT MATTERS WHICH AFFECT THEM. THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM THUS BECOMES A VITAL TOOL WHICH ENABLES NATIVE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION:

WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION IN OUR REGION. OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE NO ROADS; WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE AIRPLANE BEYOND THE RANGE OF OUR BOATS AND SKI-DOS. AIRPLANE SERVICE IS NOT CHEAP. IT COSTS ABOUT THE SAME TO FLY THE 275 MILES FROM SIOUX LOOKOUT TO BIG TROUT LAKE AS IT COSTS TO FLY FROM TORONTO TO THUNDER BAY, A DISTANCE MORE THAN THREE TIMES AS FAR. IN MANY CASES NO SCHEDULE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT ALL, SO THAT WE MUST CHARTER AIRPLANES TO REACH THE SMALLER COMMUNITIES. FLYING IS DEPENDENT ON THE



WEATHER, AS YOU ARE SURE TO LEARN WHEN YOU COME TO VISIT US. EVEN IN CLEAR WEATHER OUR SMALLER COMMUNITIES WITHOUT AIRSTRIPS ARE ISOLATED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DURING FREEZE UP AND BREAK UP.

THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE MAIL SERVICES WHICH MAKE GOOD TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT. NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE DONE BY TELEPHONE. WE HAVE TO RESORT TO SOME UNUSUAL AND EXPENSIVE METHODS TO GET VITAL INFORMATION INTO THE COMMUNITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, TO DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THE WAWATAY SUPPLEMENT ON THE HEARINGS DURING FREEZE UP WE CHARTERED PLANES TO DROP PAPERS TIED UP IN GREEN GARBAGE BAGS INTO THE COMMUNITIES. THIS MAY BE THE FIRST ROYAL COMMISSION THAT HAS LITERALLY BOMBARDED PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION! RELIABLE COMMUNICATION IN EMERGENCIES IS VITALLY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES WITHOUT NURSES OR ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE, AND WITHOUT A LOCAL AIRPLANE AVAILABLE. FOR THIS REASON ALONE, WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY COMMUNITY MUST HAVE RELIABLE TELEPHONE SERVICE. IN A REGION WHERE TRAVEL IS SO DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE, COMMUNICATION IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ORGANIZING TOOL -- TO ENABLE LEADERS TO PLAN MEETINGS, DISCUSS PRIORITIES, AND MAKE DECISIONS.

THE USE OF COMMUNICATION IN THESE HEARINGS IS AN





EXAMPLE OF ITS IMPORTANCE. THE TELEPHONE HAS BEEN USED TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, AND CO-ORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS. BOTH RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS ARE BEING USED TO INFORM THE PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGE ABOUT THE HEARINGS SO THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE STATEMENTS MADE SO THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY HEARINGS. WE BELIEVE THAT COMMUNICATION IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AREA BY OUR PEOPLE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE USE OF PORTABLE TWO-WAY RADIOS HAS INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY FROM OUR FISH CAMPS BY ENABLING THE CAMPS TO CALL A PLANE TO DELIVER A LOAD OF FRESH FISH TO MARKET BEFORE THEY SPOIL. TRAPPERS ARE NOW USING TWO-WAY RADIOS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER AND THEIR COMMUNITIES, TO SUMMON ORGANIZATIONS SERVING THE NORTH, AND TO SUMON HELP IN EMERGENCIES ON THE TRAPLINE.

WE USE COMMUNICATION IN MANY WAYS TO ADMINISTER OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTH: TO CO-ORDINATE AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FIELD WORKERS, TEACHERS, NURSES, PILOTS, ETC.; DO BUSINESS WITH COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS, BANKS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ETC.

IN 1971, THE CHIEFS SET THE TONE FOR THE COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THIS DECADE. THEY CITED COMMUNICATIONS AS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR RELIABLE COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE REGION



TO LINK FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND, PARENTS AND TO LINK THE CHIEFS AND COUNCILLORS WHO HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING AND ADMINISTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR REGION. THE CHIEFS POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT COMMUNICATION WITH EACH OTHER, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE COLLECTIVELY, AND WERE AT A MAJOR DISADVANTAGE COMPARED TO THE MANY GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PLAY A ROLE IN THE REGION. THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL WAS THE NORTHERN PILOT PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS WHICH PROVIDED TWO-WAY HF RADIOS TO SIX COMMUNITIES AND START-UP FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY RADIO STATION CFTL IN BIG TROUT LAKE. THE HF RADIO NETWORK WAS EXPANDED TO 24 COMMUNITIES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DOC AND THE INDIAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT. IMPORTANT AS THE EQUIPMENT ITSELF, THE PROCESS OF THIS PROJECT WHICH INVOLVED THE CHIEFS IN ALL MAJOR DECISIONS AND WHICH EMPHASIZED PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNITIES IN HELPING WITH INSTALLATIONS, PROVIDING A BUILDING FOR THE RADIOS, AND IN TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT. THE PROJECT USED A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH THROUGH FIELD STAFF WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITIES AND WHO PROVIDED TRAINING IN EQUIPMENT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, RADIO PROGRAM PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT.

IN 1973, THE WA-WA-TA NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY WAS FORMED TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF THE NORTHERN PILOT PROJECT



TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM, TO CO-ORDINATE NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION, AND TO KEEP THE PEOPLE IN THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES INFORMED ABOUT COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES THAT WILL AFFECT THEM. WA-WA-TA BELIEVES THAT A PHILOSOPHY OF PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS THE KEY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ALL OTHER SERVICES IN THE TREATY #9 AREA. IN OUR OWN ORGANIZATION, WE RECEIVE DIRECTION FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE TRIED TO PLAN OUR PROGRAMS TO RESPOND TO THEIR NEEDS AND TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF COMMUNICATION MATTERS THAT WILL AFFECT THEM. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO MEET THE GOAL OF BETTER COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE REGION. OUR HF RADIO SYSTEM NOW SERVICES 37 COMMUNITIES, AND WE HAVE MADE RADIOS AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE ON THE TRAPLINE AND AT HUNTING AND FISHING CAMPS. THESE TRAIL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS WILL STILL BE NEEDED EVEN WHEN TELEPHONES ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL THE COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE PROVIDED A ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN STARTING THEIR OWN RADIO STATIONS. MUSKRAT DAM IS NOW ON THE AIR, AND THERE ARE PLANS TO ASSIST MORE COMMUNITIES IN SETTING UP COMMUNITY RADIO.

WA-WA-TA ALSO PUBLISHES A MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, THE WAWATAY NEWS, IN ENGLISH AND INDIAN SYLLABICS ALSO PROVIDING TRANSLATION SERVICES. HOWEVER, WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE



COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF THIS AREA ARE NOW ALSO BEING ADDRESSED BY THE COMMON CARRIERS AND THE CBC. UNDER THE REMOTE NORTHERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT, BELL CANADA WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS IS PROVIDING RELIABLE TELEPHONE SERVICE TO 22 COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIRST TIME. THREE JAMES BAY COAST COMMUNITIES WILL RECEIVE RELIABLE SERVICE FROM ONTARIO NORTH-LAND.

UNDER THE ACCELERATED COVERAGE PLAN, THE CBC WILL PROVIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES WITH A POPULATION OF 500 OR MORE. IN THE TREATY #9 REGION, THE COMMUNITIES OF BIG TROUT LAKE, FORT HOPE, NEW OSNABURGH, PIKANGIKUM, SANDY LAKE, ATTAWAPISKAT, FORT ALBANY AND KASHECHEWAN WILL RECEIVE SERVICE. THE CBC HAS OFFERED ACCESS TO THE LOCAL RADIO TRANSMITTERS TO COMMUNICATION SOCIETIES IN THESE COMMUNITIES. SANDY LAKE IS ALREADY ON THE AIR, AND OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE PREPARING FOR LOCAL ACCESS. THE CBC THROUGH RADIO STATION CBQ IN THUNDER BAY IS ALSO SPONSORING A WEEKLY CREE LANGUAGE PROGRAM WHICH IS ALREADY VERY POPULAR WITH THOSE WHO CAN RECEIVE IT.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE:

MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE TO MEET THE COMMUNICATION NEEDS OF THE TREATY #9







PEOPLE. TO SOUTHERNERS, IT MAY SEEM THAT WE HAVE DONE VERY WELL. MOST OF OUR PEOPLE NOW HAVE TELEPHONE SERVICE AND THE LARGEST CENTRES HAVE CBC SERVICE AS WELL. BUT POPULATION FIGURES ARE MISLEADING. IT IS OF NO CONSOLATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF SUMMER BEAVER TO HEAR THAT BELL CANADA IS PROVIDING SERVICE TO 22 COMMUNITIES WHEN HE IS STILL RELYING ON A TWO-WAY RADIO. THERE ARE 7 PERMANENT COMMUNITIES WITH NO RELIABLE TELEPHONE SERVICE PLANNED.

EVEN HAVING A TELEPHONE IN A COMMUNITY MAY BE A MIXED BLESSING - IF THERE IS ONLY ONE TELEPHONE. THE CHIEFS OF SACHIGO AND MUSKRAT DAM HAVE POINTED OUT THAT ONE PAY PHONE IS ENTIRELY INADEQUATE BECAUSE IT WILL PRESENT HARDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE TO COME FROM ALL OVER THE VILLAGE TO MAKE AND RECEIVE CALLS, AND IT WILL NOT BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE IN EMERGENCIES ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. THE CHIEFS HAVE QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF INVESTING IN A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COMMUNICATION PROGRAM AND THEN PROVIDING ONLY ONE PAY PHONE IN THE COMMUNITY.

THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE QUALITY OF OUR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES. BREAKDOWNS IN THE LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE MAY NOT BE REPAIRED FOR WEEKS. PEOPLE MAY GET CHARGED FOR CALLS THEY DID NOT MAKE ON PHONES THAT DID NOT WORK. IT MAY TAKE HOURS TO GET A CIRCUIT IN OR OUT OF SOME COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE TRIED ALL DAY TO GET THROUGH TO THE ONE TELEPHONE IN LAC SEUL. THESE PROBLEMS ARE NOT



INSURMOUNTABLE. IN A FEW MINUTES WE WILL OUTLINE TO YOU SOME WAYS WE THINK THEY MIGHT BE SOLVED. BUT THEY DO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED.

CONCERNING BROADCASTING, THE NEEDS ARE GREATER STILL. RADIO HAS BECOME A VITAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE IN OUR REGION. MANY OF THEM HAVE USED THE RADIO TO LEARN ABOUT THIS COMMISSION AND TO DISCUSS ITS IMPORTANCE TO THEM. BUT ACCESS TO RADIO IN OUR AREA IS STILL VERY LIMITED. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SMALL: 25 OF THEM DO NOT QUALIFY FOR CBC SERVICE. OTHER WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO BRING RADIO SERVICE TO THEM.

AGAIN, STATISTICS MAY BE MISLEADING. OUR LARGEST COMMUNITIES WILL RECEIVE CBC SERVICE, AND THEY REPRESENT ABOUT 20% OF THE REMOTE POPULATION. BUT CONSIDER THE FRUSTRATION OF THE PEOPLE OF BEARSKIN LAKE, WUNNIMMUN LAKE AND KINGFISHER LAKE WHO ARE TO BE SERVED BY THE SAME MICROWAVE SYSTEM THAT WILL BRING RADIO AND TV TO BIG TROUT LAKE, WHILE THEY WILL RECEIVE NO BROADCASTING SERVICE AT ALL.

WE ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO FIND WAYS OF EXTENDING RADIO SERVICES BY HELPING COMMUNITIES TO START THEIR OWN STATIONS OR TO RECEIVE THE SIGNAL FROM ANOTHER COMMUNITY. WE HAD HOPED THAT THE NEW TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM WOULD HELP US TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK. BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE TECHNOLOGY IS DIVIDING US FROM EACH OTHER AS MUCH



AS IT IS TYING US TOGETHER. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LINK COMMUNITIES WITH SATELLITE SERVICE SUCH AS MUSKRAT DAM TO THOSE WITH TERRESTRIAL SERVICE SUCH AS SANDY LAKE OR SIOUX LOOKOUT. TO DO SO WE WOULD HAVE TO LEASE A LINE ALL THE WAY BACK TO ALLEN PARK NEAR TORONTO TO GET ONTO THE SATELLITE. NOT EVEN THE CBC CAN AFFORD TO DO THIS, SO FORT HOPE WHICH WILL RECEIVE CBC PROGRAMMING BY SATELLITE, WILL NOT GET THE PROGRAMS FROM THUNDER BAY, WHICH PROVIDE MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

\* \* \* \* \*

GOALS FOR COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO:

WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING GOALS FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICE IN THE TREATY #9 REGION:

1. RELIABLE TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR ALL PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS;
2. LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES THAT REQUEST THIS SERVICE;
3. RADIO BROADCAST COVERAGE OF EVERY COMMUNITY WITH PROGRAMMING THAT REFLECTS THE CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE REGION, I.E. INCLUDING PROGRAMMING IN NATIVE LANGUAGES AND PROGRAMMING RELEVANT TO NATIVE PEOPLE IN THE REGION;
4. PARTICIPATION BY THE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES IN ALL DECISIONS ON COMMUNICATION SERVICES THAT AFFECT THEM;
5. PARTICIPATION BY NATIVE PEOPLE IN THE DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES THROUGH TRAINING AND JOBS IN



COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,  
ADMINISTRATION, AND MEDIA PRODUCTION.

6. ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND SERVICES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES;

\* \* \* \* \*

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION:

1. HEARINGS IN THE COMMUNITIES: BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WITH COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION THAT WE HAVE DESCRIBED TO YOU, WE JOIN WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE URGED YOU TO HOLD HEARINGS IN ALL THE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES. ONLY THEN CAN YOU BE SURE THAT ALL NATIVE PEOPLE WILL HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION.
2. A STUDY OF COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS: BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT COMMUNICATION IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE PARTICIPATION OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD INCLUDE COMMUNICATION IN THE TOPICS THAT IT INVESTIGATES. A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SHOULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGION. WE RECOMMEND THAT A STUDY TO IDENTIFY THESE REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF MEETING THEM SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AS PART OF THE PLANNING PROCESS.
3. CO-ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: WE RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD EXAMINE MECHANISMS FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN





PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO THE REGION.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUMMARY: COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN 33 REMOTE COMMUNITIES.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

TERRESTRIAL SERVICE:	14 COMMUNITIES
SATELLITE SERVICE:	12 COMMUNITIES
NO SERVICE:	7 COMMUNITIES

TELEPHONES:

LOCAL EXCHANGE:	16 COMMUNITIES
TOLL STATION:	8 COMMUNITIES

BROADCASTING:

CBC SERVICE:	8 COMMUNITIES
NO CBC SERVICE:	25 COMMUNITIES
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY RADIO*	3 COMMUNITIES

\* AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1977



BEDUHBUN DISTRICT

BEDUHBUN DISTRICT	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	TELEPHONE SERVICE	RADIO	TV
	TERRESTRIAL	LOCAL EXCHANGE	CBC RADIO	CBC TV
	SATELLITE	TOLL STATION	LOCAL ACCESS	OTHER
SANDY LAKE	✓	✓	✓	✓
PIKANGIKUM	✓	✓	✓	✓
POPLAR HILL	✓	✓		
MCDOWELL LAKE	✓			
NORTH SPIRIT LAKE	✓			
<u>WINDIGO DISTRICT</u>				
MUSKRAT DAM	✓		✓	
ROUND LAKE	✓	✓		
SACHIGO LAKE	✓	✓		
BEARSKIN LAKE	✓			



WINDIGO DISTRICT	TELECOMMUNICATIONS		TELEPHONE SERVICE		RADIO			TV	
	SATELLITE	TERRESTRIAL	LOCAL EXCHANGE	TOLL STATION	CBC RADIO	LOCAL ACCESS	COMMUNITY RADIO	CBC TV	OTHER
OSNABURGH		✓	✓		✓			✓	
CAT LAKE	✓			✓					
PUNASK LAKE									
FRY LAKE									
SLATE FALLS	✓			✓					



	TELECOMMUNICATIONS		TELEPHONE SERVICE		RADIO			TV	
	SATELLITE	TERRESTRIAL	LOCAL EXCHANGE	TOLL STATION	CBC RADIO	LOCAL ACCESS	COMMUNITY RADIO	CBC TV	OTHER
KUH-YAH-NA-BISTRICK									
BIG TROUT LAKE		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
KASABONIKA	✓		✓						
WUNNIMUN LAKE		✓	✓						
KINGFISHER LAKE		✓							
ANGLING LAKE		✓		✓					
FORT SEVERN	✓		✓						
LONG DOG LAKE									
<u>NAKINA DISTRICT</u>									
FORT HOPE	✓		✓					1978	
LANSLOWNE HOUSE	✓		✓						

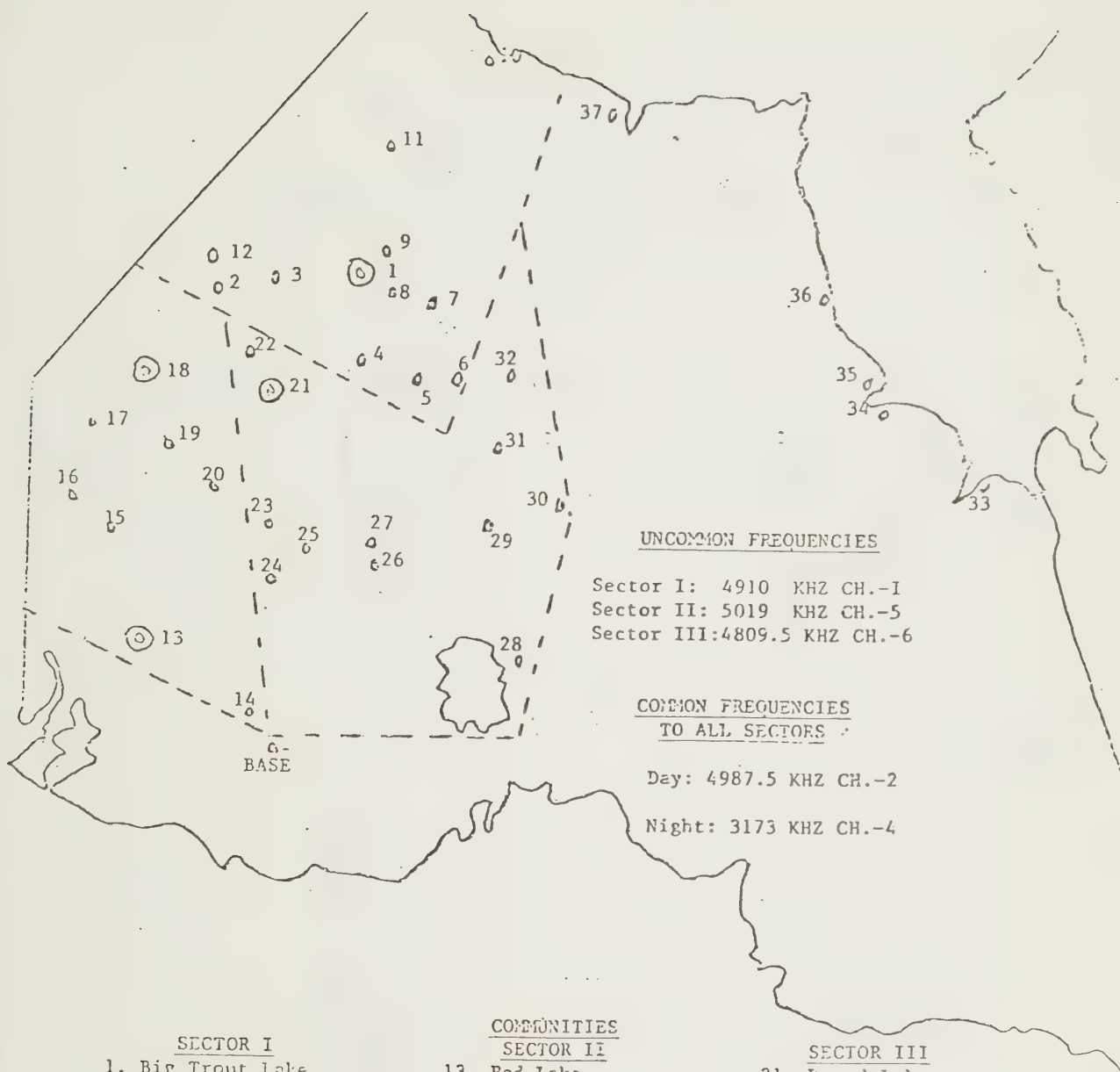




COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES BY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

NAKINA DISTRICT	TELECOMMUNICATIONS			TELEPHONE SERVICE		RADIO			TV	
	SATELLITE	TERRESTRIAL	LOCAL EXCHANGE	TOLL STATION	CBC RADIO	LOCAL ACCESS	COMMUNITY RADIO	CBC TV	OTHER	
OGOKI	✓			✓						
WEBEQUIE	✓		✓							
SUMMER BEAVER										
ATTAWAPISKAT		✓	✓		1978		✓	1978		
FORT ALBANY		✓	✓		1978			1978		
KASHECHEWAN		✓	✓		1978			1978		
HALWAY HOUSE										
HOWLEY LAKE										
WINISK	✓		✓							





- SECTOR I
1. Big Trout Lake
  2. Sachigo Lake
  3. Bearskin Lake
  4. Kingfisher Lake
  5. Wunnumin Lake
  6. Summer Beaver
  7. Kasabonika
  8. Long Dog Lake
  9. Angling Lake
  10. Fort Severn
  11. Rocksand
  12. Pimask Lake

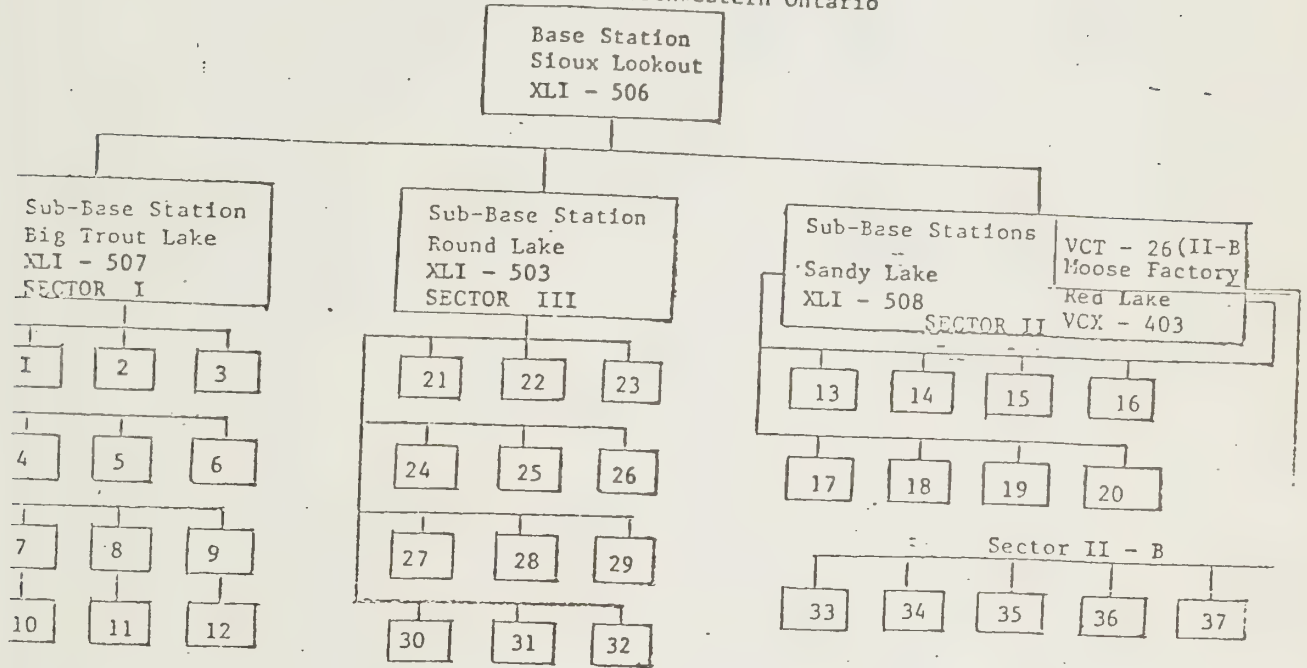
- COMMUNITIES  
SECTOR II
13. Red Lake
  14. Lac Seul
  15. Pikangikum
  16. Poplar Hill
  17. Deer Lake
  18. Sandy Lake
  19. North Spirit
  20. McDowell Lake
- Sector II-B
33. Moose Factory
  34. Fort Albany
  35. Kashechewan
  36. Attawapiskat
  37. Winisk

- SECTOR III
21. Round Lake
  22. Muskrat Dam
  23. Cat Lake
  24. Slate Falls
  25. Fry Lake
  26. Osnaburgh
  27. Pickle Lake
  28. Geraldton
  29. Fort Hope
  30. Ogoki Post
  31. Lansdowne
  32. Webique



# ORGANIZATION CHART

## H.F. Radio Network of Northwestern Ontario



### Sector I

- Big Trout Lake
- Sachigo Lake
- Bearskin Lake
- Kingfisher Lake
- Wunnumin Lake
- Summer Beaver
- Kasabonika
- Long Dog Lake
- Angling Lake
- Fort Severn
- Rocksand
- Ponask Lake

### Sector III

- 21. Round Lake
- 22. Muskrat Dam
- 23. Cat Lake
- 24. Slate Falls
- 25. Fry Lake
- 26. Osnaburgh
- 27. Pickle Lake
- 28. Geraldton
- 29. Fort Hope
- 30. Ogoki Post
- 31. Lansdowne
- 32. Webique

### Sector II

- 13. Red Lake
- 14. Lac Seul
- 15. Pikangikum
- 16. Poplar Hill
- 17. Deer Lake
- 18. Sandy Lake
- 19. North Spirit
- 20. McDowell Lake

### Sector II - B

- 33. Moose Factory
- 34. Fort Albany
- 35. Kashechewan
- 36. Attawapiskat
- 37. Winisk

### FREQUENCIES TO BE USED WITHIN EACH SECTOR:

- SECTOR I - 4910 = CH. - 2
- SECTOR II - 5019 = CH. - 5
- SECTOR III - 4809.5 = CH. - 6



WAWATAY NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY

LOCATION OF TRAIL RADIOS

1. Round Lake Fisheries	-	1	Trail	Radio
2. North Spirit Lake	-	1	"	"
3. Deer Lake	-	1	"	"
4. Hawley Lake	-	1	"	"
5. Big Trout Lake	-	2	Trail	Radios
6. Kassabonika	-	1	Trail	Radio
7. Winisk	-	1	"	"
8. Rocksand	-	1	"	"
9. Pikangicum	-	1	"	"
10. Keesic Lake	-	1	"	"
11. Wunnumin Lake	-	1	"	"
12. Bearskin Lake	-	1	"	"
13. Sandy Lake	-	1	"	"
14. Moose Factory	-	1	"	"
15. Kaschechewan	-	1	"	"
16. Cat Lake	-	1	"	"
17. Sachigo Lake	-	1	"	"
18. Slate Falls	-	1	"	"
19. Kingfisher Lake	-	1	"	"
20.				
21.				

---

19 Trail Radios





CB Base Stations

Big Trout Lake

Lac Seul

Summer Beaver

Wunnimun Lake

Bearskin Lake

Muskrat Dam

Fort Hope

Angling Lake

Kingfisher Lake

Sandy Lake

\* - others - 4 CB radios

CB Sales/Community

-9 CB radios plus accessories

-4 CB radios plus accessories

-9 CB radios plus accessories

-15 CB radios plus accessories

? 18 CB radios plus accessories

-6 CB radios plus accessories

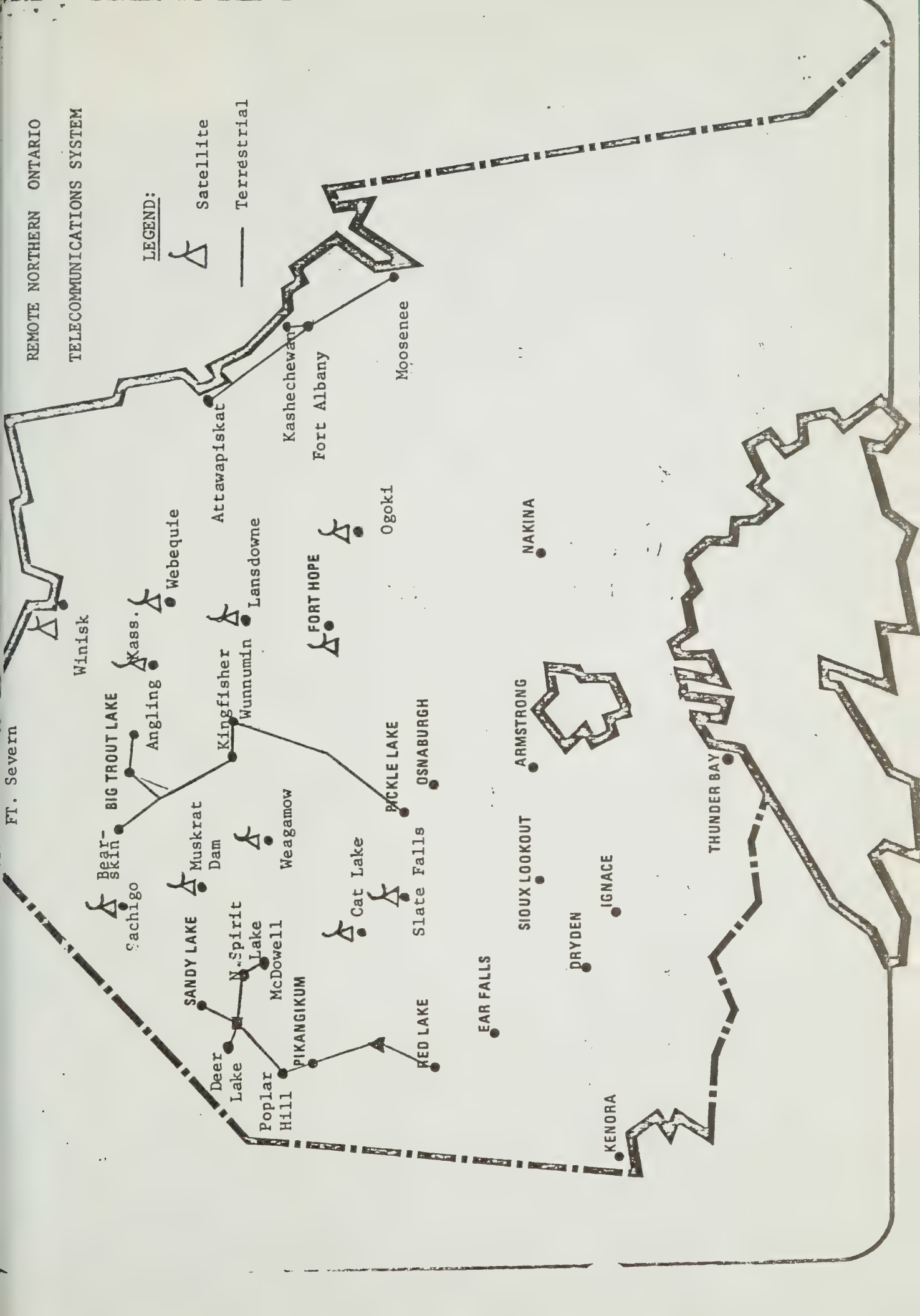
-18 CB radios plus accessories

\* new station

14-CB radios plus accessories

4 - CB radios plus accessories







CA20N

Z1

-77N22

SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ROSS IRWIN

PRESENTED AT

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 1, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ROSS IRWIN  
BOX 1449  
SIOUX LOOKOUT, ONTARIO

PRESENTED AT

MOOSENEE, ONTARIO

on

February 1, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST  
ROOM 801  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4W 1A5





S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

ROSS IRWIN

BOX 1449

SIOUX LOOKOUT, ONTARIO



# Ross Irwin

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

BOX 1449,  
SIOUX LOOKOUT,  
ONTARIO, POV 2T0

No. 309

January 11, 1978.

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment  
This exhibit is produced by,

*Ross Irwin*

this 1 day of Feb 1978  
*Sevane*

Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt,  
The Royal Commission on  
the Northern Environment,  
Manulife Centre,  
55 Bloor Street West,  
Room 801,  
Toronto. M4W 1A5

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

It is with considerable regret that I present to you the  
attached submission.

Regret that circumstances such as are outlined therein  
should exist at all in this enlightened age in the Pro-  
vince of Ontario, The Province of Opportunity. They do  
exist, and occur with startling regularity.

I have chosen the vehicle of the short story in order to  
portray my own thoughts, as well as the factual material,  
in what I hope is as dramatic a manner as is possible.

The described events are factual, and are documented in  
the death register of a Funeral Home located in the Pro-  
vince of Ontario 'North of 50'. The information recorded  
in the ledger is, as it must be, of a confidential nature  
and, as such, cannot be put forth as evidence. If this  
precludes acceptance of the story by your Commission, I  
feel this would be regrettable. However, I am prepared to  
rely on your good judgement in your consideration of this  
matter.

I have not signed my submission for what I feel are valid  
reasons. I do not wish to have identified it's point of

Page two-



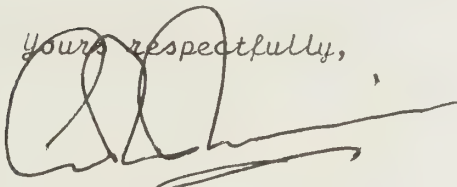
Page two

origin, and consequent possible identification of persons involved.

I hope this covering letter will sufficiently assure you of the sincerity of purpose of the writer.

Thanking you, I remain

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ross Irwin  
Funeral Director



*Two Tapes, Four Pennies and a Comb*

*A Submission*

*to*

*The Royal Commission  
on the Northern Environment*

*Province of Ontario*

*Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt*





Page one

*Two Tapes, Four Pennies and a Comb*

I looked at the still form lying on the toboggan behind the snow-machine. I looked around at the stoic, impassive faces of the half dozen people gathered in a semi-circle around the toboggan, eyes shifting from the boy, asleep under his bright yellow blanket, to the OPP officer, the unmistakeable figure of authority.

I had seen the snow-machine coming across the lake toward the small group gathered on the shore, as I approached the same group from the other direction, down the steep hill from the village.

"Who knows him? Can any of you identify him?" First spoken words, from the officer. The bright yellow blanket is folded down to reveal the clean, dark, silent features of the boy.

Silence.

Then one of the half dozen turned away and spoke roughly. "He's my son".

"Can anybody else verify that?"

More silence in the bright, bitter cold, the only sound the muffled exhaust of the station wagon parked nearby.

More glances, at the boy, at the officer, but not at me. In a few hours they'll have time for me. They know. They've been this route before - many times.

Finally the silence is broken by another of the half dozen, the

Page two



Page two

words spoken quietly, directed at no one in particular.

"No. That's Sarah's boy. That's James Allen. He was at the Hotel yesterday".

"Did anybody see him after he left the Hotel?"

Heads shake. Mutttered nos.

"Are you sure that's Jimmy? We need a positive identification".

The half dozen move closer to the toboggan. The brown eyes gaze intently at the face of the boy.

The third to speak points. "See his eyelid. See that scar. That's James Allen. He was at the Hotel yesterday".

The fourth says "Ya. That's James Allen. You could get his grandfather to come and see".

Again from Isaac, the first to speak, slowly groping his way out of the fog of Friday and Saturday, "That's my son".

He's ignored by the rest of the group. They are suffering some too, but are more lucid than Isaac.

"OK" says the voice of command, "go tell his Grandfather".

Then, turning to me, "Take him to town. Doc said to bring him in and give him a call. Wants to take a look. We'll see you there in about half an hour. We'll bring his Grandfather to identify him.

Page three



Page three

Call Doc when you get in".

No need to reply. Just go to the back of the wagon and get the stretcher, wheel it over into the group.

The sound is loud as the cold metal stretcher collapses at my bidding beside the toboggan.

No reaction from anyone. No offer of assistance either.

The zipper unzips. The grey nylon bag opens to reveal the green plastic lining and the chrome buckles of the restraining straps. Very clean. Very efficient.

As if on command, everyone there moves as one with me. Eight pairs of hands lift him gently off his conveyance and place him in the opened bag. All move as one at the task. They've done it before. Quick-release buckles snap shut. The straps tighten. The bag is closed. The zipper whispers shut, and it is done. A silent glance at the closest, and a nod toward the foot of the stretcher as I bend to the head. He bends, grabs, and we lift together. I wheel it to the open back door of the wagon and in, and firmly close the door.

With the closing of the door the tension is gone. They all start to talk at once, but the voice of authority takes over, issuing some instruction as I drive off, forgotten for the moment.

Back up the hill and out to the highway. Twenty miles to home and work.

'Hell of a way to start a Sunday. Better than the boy though. Jesus, if that is Sarah's boy that's rough. That's three out of

Page four



Page four

that family. How long is it anyway? Can't be any more than a month-and-a-half. Christ! Froze to death. Son of a bitch! You'd think they'd learn. Wonder how old he is? Was. Couldn't have been any more than seventeen-eighteen. Goddam stupid. Must have been close to minus forty last night, and him trying to walk across that lake. Stupid. Goddam stupid. Snootful, I guess. Should be a law'. 'Must remember to bill the Coroner for this'.

Home. Back the wagon in, open the door, out with the stretcher and inside. Phone Doc and start work.

The zipper comes unzipped again. The buckles quick-release as they are supposed to. The bright yellow police cover comes off, and there he is.

Just a boy. Hands clenched into tight fists, one inside a light jacket, the other across his abdomen, head slightly to one side, features relaxed, eyes closed in eternal sleep.

'Too bad to have to disturb him'.

'Inventory time. The boys will want a list'.

Off the stretcher, onto the gleaming porcelaine table.

'Yellow gum-boots; wool socks; blue-jeans; Jesus, look at that, jockey shorts; must have been out of his mind! Jockey shorts at forty below. Dark blue, light fall windbreaker; long sleeved open-necked sport shirt. Not even an undershirt! Christ! How can they be so fuckin' stupid! They keep saying they've been around here for centuries before we took it away from them. Think they'd

Page five





Page five

know by now how to dress in the winter. All clean, freshly laundered, almost brand-new. Somebody loved him'.

'Pockets next. Left side jacket- two cassette tapes-look new-that's it. Right side-nothing. Shirt pockets-nothing. Jeans-left side-nothing. Right side-four pennies; and a Bay cash register slip-dated Saturday-must be for the tapes. Wonder if he ever got to hear them. Nazareth, Playin' The Game, and Alice Cooper, Love It To Death. Should have found a girl with a warm room and an ear for acid rock. Still be alive probably. Back pockets-one clean comb-black as his hair. Guess that's it-no cigarettes-no matches. Too bad he didn't smoke. Could have built himself a fire. Hell of a legacy-two tapes, four pennies and a comb'.

'Somebody at the front door. Better get a sheet over him and fold up this clothing'.

It's the police. Two officers, and with them an elderly, gentle, soft-spoken man. An Indian man, with his years in this harsh country etched in his face.

"Hello" I say. "Bonjou" he replies. We've met before.

The sheet folds again and he gazes quietly at his dead grandson, nods in the affirmative, and turns toward the door.

'They say Indians don't cry. Even wrote a book about it. George Kenny, I think. Comes from around here somewhere. Should be here now with this old man. He's crying. Not showing it though. Not going to let us see. But he's crying just the same. Crying for what was? Or crying for what might-have-been? His family dis-

Page six



Page six

appearing on him. Three in a month-and-a-half, and probably all from the same basic cause. Sure as we stand here in silence, Doc is going to find a high blood-alcohol when he does the test'.

The old man says the boy is seventeen. Can't bring himself to say 'was'. Halfway through Grade Twelve. A good student.

'Another statistic. Christ, its enough to make you cry. Enough to make anybody cry. Wonder what the guys in the forensic lab think about us people up here?'

The old man leaves with his official escorts. He'll be back later to bring clothing and arrange for the funeral. One last glance and he's gone. Turned his back regretfully on what was, or what might-have-been. Send the bill to Ottawa.

The darkly attractive girl came to the Church just before the start of the service. She placed one long-stemmed red rose lovingly on his breast before we closed the casket. She left quickly and quietly to return to her time-clock job in another world, and left him with his family and his God.

Its finished now. He sleeps forever with his ancestors, the very ancient, and the very recent, in the quiet burial ground under the pines and the northern lights.

'I wonder if he ever knew, when he walked amongst us, just who he was or where he was going; or whether to look forward or to look backward? And who was to tell him?'

The end.



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-77N22

SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

KASHECHEWAN BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

KASHECHEWAN BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

on

February 2. 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST  
ROOM 801  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4W 1A5





EXHIBIT # 310

RETYPE FOR PRINTING

CERTIFIED  
TRUE COPY OF ORIGINAL  
by

KASHECHEWAN BAND

*E. Marshall*

ORIGINAL SUBMISSION  
CAN BE VIEWED AT THE  
COMMISSION OFFICES AT  
55 BLOOR STREET WEST,  
TORONTO



S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

KASHECHEWAN BAND



THE CARVING

James Wesley  
from  
Kashechewan

February 2, 1978

MOOSE FACTORY



HARTT HEARINGS - Febraury 2, 1978

Omuskagowak and Ojibwa living along the west coast of James Bay. I want to speak of this carving and its meaning. Also what our people think about living on a reserve. The reason this carving was created was because we the people have a belief in the Great Spirit. The Great Spirit has given to the Indian our way of life. And this is the reason we thought of this carving. The Great Spirit has many things that belong to Him and that come from Him. The Great Spirit told our people of the creation of the earth and of man. This belief is followed by our people (Omuskagowak) and was our thinking when we created this carving. We decided that at this Muskago meeting this carving would be present, to represent all of the Indians of Treaty No. 9 area. The meaning of this carving is as follows: the round carved ball represents the earth, which the Great Spirit made. At the bottom is carved a hand, which represents the Great Spirit's hand. He is holding the earth, which he created. At the top of the carving is a cross. This represents the place in which Jesus Christ, the son of God, died for all mankind. Next to the hand is carved a Bible. This represents God's work written in two languages. One side is written in Cree and it says, "Be not afraid only believe." This is how we believe. This wording and its meaning in faith is the reason we are not afraid. Next to this is carved an Indian, which the Great Spirit created in the image of himself. The artist carved his head gear, because this is what the Great Spirit had given him. In this carving we the Indian people want to show how we interpret the meaing of living on this earth. We are not retaliating for what the European did to our people, when he encroached on our land. In the past we had many meetings, we will also have many more in the future. The time has come for us to start thinking about ourselves, on how we perceive and understand the Whiteman. We did not think of the Whiteman's progress ourselves, the Great Spirit has made us aware of our relationship with your race. The way in which the Great Spirit spoke is the reason we are here. The Great Spirit made the earth, and this land we now call Canada. Our belief in the Great Spirit is the most important value we have in living off the land. The existence of this Great Spirit resulted in our understanding of nature and the creatures. We Believe in the Great Spirit so when we leave our existence on this earth, we meet the Creator. This is the depth of this carving's meaning form our point of view. We Omuskagowak Albany Band No. 67, Kashechewan, James Bay Coast.





A PRESENTATION BY

James Wesley, an Elder  
Chief Willie Stevens  
Councillor Sinclair Williams

from  
Kashechewan

February 2, 1978

MOOSE FACTORY



TREATY #9, 1905

I will be relating the story from what I have learned from my former Elders. This story will concern the encroachment of the White European race.

In the past, the time came when an Indian had a vision regarding a race of people that would come from the East into their land. These people would be different, and they would speak a foreign language. The Elders that told me of this story were: John Wesley, Thomas Stephen and Sandy Lazeras. The first place these strange people landed was at Rupert's River. These people brought with them many different things.

In our area, on the Albany River by a creek called Yellow Creek, our people found a cabin in 1735 A.D. This was the first settlement by the Hudson Bay Company. These foreigners brought many things that were different from what our people were using, like guns. From what these three Elders told me. I learned that our people operated their guns in this manner: the powder was put in first, then the grass wad and then the pellets. When these guns were fired they made a lot of smoke. And as I mentioned before these guns were not used to hurt our people.

The reason the Hudson Bay Company settled in this place was because this area had plenty of wild life: such animals as rabbits, marten, beaver, etc. The Hudson Bay Company measured the furs against the height of the guns, at that time these guns were four to six feet in length. Our people did not get to say which gun was to be used in measuring the furs. This was how our people used to get or buy guns from the Hudson Bay Company, and how our people began using the Whiteman's tools. Also these White people brought with them clothing and what the Indian people called sacks, a type of



canvas, these were heavy and thick like a cloth. These were used in the beginning as were other implements, axes, knives, etc. The White people also brought with them different types of implements for setting a fire, such as matches. These matches when lit smelled so much that people coughed from the smoke, and the smell was awful. The other type was a steel rod and a flint rock. There was black powder at the bottom of the rod and when the flint rock was struck it ignited the black powder. The Indian people decided to adopt some of these things from the Whiteman. At this time the Indian people were still wearing their traditional dress. With the coming of the Whiteman the Indians began to adopt some of the European's clothing. These people made settlements along the Albany River. The first settlement other than Fort Albany, was a settlement 150 miles west, which was called Fort Hope. Then came Hamut, and Osnaburgh, this was the length of the Hudson Bay Company's route. The Hudson Bay Company was supplying all these settlements. They had a monopoly on the fur trade and as a result the Hudson Bay Company was here for many years. The Indian people at that time knew of another party. This party was a French Company, and this company was only there for awhile.

The elders said that in their opinion there was talk about some White visitors coming, to discuss the trading of Indian land. The person that told the people of this situation was a minister. The Elders said to us that these people approached them suddenly to ask for their land. The Commissioners came and as a result the Indian people signed the treaty of 1905. This was Treaty No. 9.

This section of this presentation concerns the aftermath of Treaty No. 9. On August 3, 1905, the Indians of our community were visited by the Crown's Commissioners who came down the Albany River from the west. Our Elders told us that the



meeting place was held outside in the open, at that time there was no big buildings other than the Hudson Bay Company Store. A Commissioner held a Bible in his hand to show the seriousness of their intentions. These Commissioners, that were representing the Crown in the negotiation process, gave our people one hour to make a decision. In that short hour our people did not have a chance to understand or discuss much of what was going on because of the language, other than to say, that these Commissioners had authority that represented the Crown, In the beginning the Elder people did not want to commit themselves. They said, "We don't know what's in store for us in the future". In further negotiations among themselves, they agreed to the Treaty and our people hoped that these people would not rule over them. When the Commissioners came for an answer, our people were asked, "Have you finished? If you have then you can show this by raising your hand." This resulted in what appeared to be an unanimous decision to agree. The Commissioners were suprised, they had yet another proposal and that was the actual signing of the Treaty itself. At the signing of this Treaty there were members from the communities of Attawapiskat, Winisk and Fort Severn. This was the land area the Crown wanted. So our people at this meeting all signed. After the signing they all had a feast to honour this agreement. Everyone was to attend, adults and children alike. They were to be given presents, etc. In the final meeting the following day, a Roman Catholic priest was present, and a Hudson Bay Company representative. The Treaty was to show that the Whiteman had good intentions.





After the signing of the Treaty our people were told that they would be organized in this manner, they were to elect a Chief and some Councillors to lead them. Each Chief and his people would make up a Band for one reserve (community). The number of Councillors would depend on the population of that community. Our people were told that there had to be a hundred people in order to elect a Chief, and that they could elect a Councillor for each hundred people. The first elected chief was Mr. Spence. The Crown told the people that if they did not like their Chief that they had the authority to change him, because the reserve was now theirs. In those days our people by electing someone stood behind that person, the majority did the deciding. The same thing applied to the Councillors. A man the people supported like Andrew Wesley, could be Chief for twenty years or more. At the time the Treaty was signed a reserve was not mentioned, until the following summer. It was then that a reserve system was set up. A suitable place, where there were plenty of trees and dry land had to be selected. It was to be resolved among the people as to the location of this reserve. The Elders looked at the source of food supplies for the generations yet to come. This they told to the elected representatives so that they would select a suitable place for our people to dwell. These places are known as Attawapiskat, Winisk and Fort Severn.

In this promise regarding a reservation six men were invited into a house in the area. These men were: Andrew Wesley, John Goodwin, David Wynne, David Andrew, Xavier Bird from Winisk and Joseph Iahtail from Fort Severn. In this Treaty our people were promised a sawmill, housing, schooling, medical services, doctors, gardening tools, vegetable seeds, and livestock, etc. The Commissioners clapped the men on their shoulders to show their appreciation. The items mentioned above were promised to any Indian who would live on the reserve.



Then the Commissioner proceeded to say as he pointed to the sun, the river, and the grass, "That as long as you see the sun shining, the river flowing and the grass growing these things will be remembered as a promise. While you live on this piece of land it will be considered yours. Whatever business you have regarding trespassers. it would be up to your people to decide what to do about it." When this happened, Andrew Wesley was Chief. Preceeding Andrew Wesley was Moses Wesley who was Chief for twenty years and in all that amounts to forty years. The Elders told us that they soon encountered problems with some Government Wardens concerning their traditional (Indian) trapping and hunting areas.

PRESENTATION TO BE CONTINUED BY CHIEF WILLIE STEVENS

An Elder spoke about his life and the land, and how important it is to live off the land. He said he was born in the wilderness. On the land there were no divisions by community. This Elder was raised traditionally by his mother and father, he was breastfed the way the Great Spirit intended mothers to feed their young. He learned to survive in the wilderness with the land. Our people did not have stoves to warm themselves with like they do today, they used to use open fires to heat their tents. This Elder also said that it is important to take care of our land, the land that the Great Spirit created for our people. We learned the ways of survival from the wild animals. This Elder shared the experience of all the animals living in his area, because he actually grew up with them.

The Department of Indian Affairs did not do very much to help our people in those days. This Elder said he knows one family that starved to death because of the Whiteman. The White people refused to share their shelter and food, as we had shared with them.



We the Muskagowak people never really realized what the Whitman was doing to us. They have broken the Treaty with our people. All through the years since 1905, our people have been living off the land. Most of the Elders still talk about the promises the Whitman made. However, seventy years later after the Treaty was signed, the Whiteman is now talking about damming our rivers for the benefit of their people. This is not going to work for our people, and it is not going to work for your people. You are destroying what the Great Spirit has created. We the Muskagowak people don't want the Whiteman's progress to destroy our area. We have children that must have a good place to grow up in, and the unknown future to care about.

PRESENTATION TO BE CONTINUED BY COUNCILLOR SINCLAIR WILLIAMS

We are very concerned about the Whiteman destroying our surroundings. The land and everything on it is sacred because the Great Spirit made it.

Our relationship with the land is as sacred as a marriage created by the Great Spirit. This marriage must not be broken or our people cannot survive. Many of our ways are in danger because of the European. Our young people are having all kinds of problems, young families often break up these days. All these bad things that are happening to our people have come with your society. It seems that the gifts the Great Spirit has sent for us to use for our good in life are what the Whiteman wants, just so he can destroy them. Your society would like our people to help them destroy these gifts, but we will not set this bad example for our future generations.

So let us now think on all that has been said by our Leaders, and may the Great Spirit guide us through this battle to save our people and our land.



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ATTAWAPISKAT BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER





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File Number

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Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ATTAWAPISKAT BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

on

February 2, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
416/965-9286

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

ATTAWAPISKAT BAND



Mr. Commissioner:

I am the Chief of the Attawapiskat Reserve. It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to speak to you in person on behalf of the members of my Council.

My people have been a patient, long suffering and fore-bearing race. Since the signing of the treaty, native people have died with patience, having waited for promises to be carried out. At present we are still suffering because the promises are still neglected before us. The present generation of native people now speak clearly and loudly before your Commission to re-negotiate those broken treaties which represent a breach of trust and a betrayal of faith by both governments.

We want honesty and justice from both governments be recognized as Humans, and we want the right also to have a voice in their decision making on proposals and projects that will affect us in our way of living - living in peace and harmony with nature.

We also would like to have an input into the education of our children so that once again they will have pride in their own race and dignity who they are. The reason for such a request is that we see our children come home from high school. They are affected by the European Culture, as it influences them to take no pride in themselves. Therefore, Education must be redefined to make it relevant to the needs and cultures of the Indian people. It should include





Spiritual Values, which help to promote self-respect within oneself and respect for others.

We, therefore, as Native people are opposed to the big Industrial development Projects proposed by the Provincial and Federal Governments.

These projects completely destroy the land and the beautiful surroundings which are not replacable but vitally important to the survival of the people. It also destroys the animals that need the elements of the forests and waters to survive. If these developments do go ahead we will have nothing to offer to our nation yet to be born. Ours was and is the way of nature, a natural existence. Mr. Commissioner, we realize that it is very difficult for you to understand but nevertheless, we hope that you will try because it is as important to us as money is to the Whiteman. Nature and surroundings are important to the Indian because they provide him with his spiritual and physical life.

We ask you Mr. Commissioner, to have the leaders of each community recognized as any other ministers in Ontario. We are elected, as they are elected.

Also, Mr. Commissioner, we would like you to look into Indian Affairs in the James Bay Region.

- 1) We ask that they change their present system of administration to give us freedom to plan and administer our own Band Affairs at our own pace



- 2) We asked that Indian Affairs provide resources for better administration and communication
- 3) We also want sub-offices within our reserve or other reserves as we find it is very costly for our people to travel when in need of seeing them
- 4) We, the leaders, would like to sit on the selection committee to interview applicants for positions open in the department. In the past, we have experienced that the regional office often sends people who have no understanding or feeling for the native people of the north

We are not saying that we no longer need or want the assistance of Indian Affairs. We do want to work with them.

By this presentation, Mr. Commissioner, we have indicated that we are non-violent people. But we would like to have meaningful consultation with both governments.

At this time, Mr. Commissioner, I would like to extend an invitation to you and your commission to come to Attawapiskat. There you would find concrete evidence of the community life in the north. These hearings are an historical event and my people would have a great deal to say to you. You would learn by what you see and hear.

May the Great Spirit guide you in your proceedings.

I thank you for your attention.



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

JAMES BAY CHIEFS

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



Ontario

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

JAMES BAY CHIEFS

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

on

February 2. 1978

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presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

JAMES BAY CHIEFS





# GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #9

"Association of Treaty #9 Chiefs"

Central Office: Tel. (705) 267-1191 Telex 067-81595  
261 - 3rd Avenue, TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Regional Office: Thunder Bay, Ontario

No. 312

Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment

This exhibit is produced by

*Chief Tom Urchibald*

this 2 day of Feb 1978

*S. J. J. J.*

POSITION ON HIGH COST  
OF LIVING  
IN  
THE  
NORTH  
PRESENTED  
TO  
JUSTICE HARTT  
FROM THE  
JAMES BAY CHIEFS

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



## POSITION ON HIGH COST OF LIVING IN THE NORTH

The cost of living for the northern James Bay communities is extremely high compared to southern Ontario. While the wage economy in these communities is low, the people living there are forced to pay the highest costs in goods and transportation.

The following are some examples:

### 1. TRANSPORTATION

Although the government subsidizes Nor Ontair Airlines, the local freight rates and passenger fares continue to escalate unjustly because the subsidy programs are not extended to the more northern airlines, such as White River Airlines.

The cost of shipping one standard frame house to Winisk is \$18,000!

The price for one gallon of gas is \$4.00.

### 2. EMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate in this region is in excess of 85%. However, this is not reflected in the Federal Government's unemployment rate statistics. The wages relate directly to the high unemployment since our people have the lowest wage rate in the province, which in some cases barely reaches the minimum wage. Traditional pursuits of living such as trapping are still maintained, but to a limited degree, due to the depletion of the wildlife.

These pursuits are seasonal and subject to world market conditions.



### 3. INFLATION

Although the Federal Government has implemented wage and price controls to lower the national inflation rate, the inflation in this region continues to climb alarmingly. The Federal and Provincial sponsored programs for Indian bands do not provide the extra funds necessary to accommodate this high inflation index.

We, the Chiefs of James Bay, request you, Mr. Commissioner to present to the Provincial Government of Ontario, and where appropriate the Federal Government, the following recommendations:

- a) That the present transportation subsidy programs be reviewed, with the objective of having a standard price of goods and services in northern communities regardless of geographical location.

Example: A gallon of gas which costs 89¢ in Timmins should also be made available to Winisk residents at the same price. The difference in cost to be made up in subsidies provided by the Province.

- b) A formula that will guarantee this standard pricing be designed and implemented.

Example: Standard pricing by the L.C.B.O.

- c) That this standard pricing be under constant evaluation to keep it in stride with rapid inflationary growth.
- d) That due to the precedence established by the present subsidy programs involving the Toronto Transit Commission, Air Canada, and the Canadian National Railway; we request that this Inquiry recommend to the Federal-Provincial Governments to assist





transportation in the North in a similar manner.

Chief James E. Koostachin, WINISK BAND

Chief Fred. P. Ullery, ATTAWAPISKAT BAND

Chief W. H. H. H., FORT ALBANY BAND

Chief W. H. H. H., KASHECHEWAN BAND

Chief W. H. H. H., MOOSE FACTORY BAND

Chief Thomas (Red) Hald, NEW POST BAND

DATE: February 1, 1978.



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-77N22

SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

FORT ALBANY BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
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THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
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FORT ALBANY BAND

PRESENTED AT

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

FORT ALBANY BAND



Mr. Commissioner:

We have tried to put down for you some of the main concerns that our people have. It is very difficult to put on paper the way we feel about these things. These are very real concerns. We appreciate having the opportunity to tell you about them. We trust that our recommendations will be taken seriously.

Chief and Councillors,  
Sinclair Island, Albany Band.



Background Information:

- up until 1973, St. Anne's School in Fort Albany was operated as a residential school, to accommodate children from the communities of the James Bay coast.
- by 1973, schools had been built in each of the other communities, so that there was no longer a need for a residential school; at that point, St. Anne's was changed into a day school
- this situation posed a number of problems:
  - because of the size of the building, it was extremely costly to maintain and heat
  - because it was situated on the mainland, the children were required to cross the river going and coming home from school each day.
- because of these special problems, the Department of Indian Affairs agreed to build a school in Sinclair Island.
- ground preparations were begun; approximately \$80,000 was invested.
- suddenly all activities ceased; the Department of Indian Affairs said there was no money available to build the school.
- this would be the same as someone promising to give you \$80,000, and just as they were about to hand it to you, they changed their mind, and pulled it back; how would you feel if this happened to you? Wouldn't you pursue the matter and fight for the money that was promised?
- at present, there are about 200 children who walk back and forth to school each day, as well as coming home at lunch time; this means that the children are forced to walk a total of 4 miles each day.
- besides the distance factor, there is also the weather conditions to consider: the children have no choice but to walk in all extremes of temperatures. If it is raining, the children end up sitting in the classroom with wet clothes. How can they be expected to learn under such uncomfortable conditions?
- parents feel very uneasy about sending their children, especially the younger ones, when the weather is not good. Certainly, parents cannot be blamed for keeping their children at home, when the weather is bad.



- during freeze-up and break-up, it is impossible to cross the river at all. Consequently, the school is closed for 2 weeks each time.
- consider the amount of time that is lost because of this whole situation.
- if a school were to be built on Sinclair Island, all of these problems would be eliminated.

Whereas, the people of Fort Albany were promised that a school would be built on Sinclair Island;

Whereas, their children are experiencing such hardships as outlined previously and will continue to do so as long as the school is located on the mainland;

Whereas, \$80,000 has already been invested in ground preparations for the school;

We, the chief and councillors of Sinclair Island of the Albany Band demand that the Department of Indian Affairs honour their committment to build a school for the people of Fort Albany on Sinclair Island.





RE: WATER DIVERSION

Whereas, a large number of the Native People of the James Bay area still make their living off of the land, in the form of hunting and trapping, and are completely dependent on the rivers for transportation in all seasons;

Whereas the building of a dam on the river would prevent people from being able to travel to their traditional trapping areas;

Whereas, the building of a dam would cause a complete upset in the balance of nature in the area, which would drive away the birds and animals upon which the people are so dependent for their survival;

Whereas, the building of a series of dams, for the purpose of diverting the natural flow of the water, would cause the salt water of James Bay to enter into the rivers, which in turn would affect the supply of drinking water for the villages, as well as affect the local fish supply;

Whereas, the building of dams would cause extensive flooding, which would cover several burial sites in the area;

We, the chief and councillors of Sinclair Island of the Fort Albany Band, demand that the proposed Water Diversion Project be stopped, at all costs, and that no further studies be made in this regard.



RE: POLAR BEAR PARK

Whereas, the people of Winisk and Attawapiskat have always hunted, fished and trapped on the land situated between these two communities, and are dependant on this land for their survival;

Whereas, the Polar Bear Park, as established by the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources, takes in part of these same lands;

Whereas, there are several burial sites within the boundaries of Polar Bear Park;

Be it resolved that we, the chief and councillors of Sinclair Island of the Fort Albany Band fully support the request that the People of Winisk and Attawapiskat be allowed to continue to utilize their traditional lands, even within the boundaries of Polar Bear Park, and the necessary measures be taken to ensure that the wildlife and environment, as well as the aforementioned burial sites not be threatened or abused by any activities or developments within the park.



RE: FUR TAX

Whereas, the people of James Bay have depended on trapping as their sole means of survival for many years;

Whereas, the people of James Bay carry on their trapping activities on their traditional trapping grounds that have been handed down through generations;

Whereas, the right to trap is one of our protected rights under Treaty #9;

We, the chief and councillors of Sinclair Island of the Fort Albany Band do hereby strongly recommend that the Native People of the James Bay District be exempted from payment of the Fur Tax that is being imposed by the Federal Government of Canada.



BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION DE CONSEIL DE BANDE

The Council of the

Agency  
District  
Province

Place  
Nom De l'Endroit

Date

Do Hereby Resolve:

Whereas, George Gillies was born to Torquil Gillies and Charlotte Kiache (registered under Attawapiskat Band).

Whereas, after the death of his wife Charlotte, Torquil handed his young children (George, Annabella, and Gabriel) over to the Sisters of the St. Anne's Residential School; (this action was supported by a written request by himself);

Whereas, Meni Nishawpit (registered under Albany Band) took into her care the two boys through traditional adoption, to raise as her own children, until the time that they married; (this is supported by the attached document which is Meni's message regarding this matter).

Whereas, George has lived in the area of Fort Albany for all of his life, in the same style and fashion as all others who are recognized as Treaty Indians;

Whereas, George married Bessie Tanouch (registered under the Nemiska Band of Quebec) and made their home in Fort Albany and raised their family in the community of Albany, and intend on spending the rest of their lives in Fort Albany;

Whereas, there is evidence that certain individuals in the James Bay District, who have been in similar situations, have been granted treaty Status, without going through court action.

We, the undersigned Chief and Councillors of Sinclair Island of the Fort Albany Band, do hereby accept George Gillies as a member of the Albany Band, with full Treaty Rights.

(Signatures of Chiefs and Councillors)





Summer of 1972,  
Fort Albany, Ontario.

The following account of my life may be submitted to the government, "protectors of Canada's natives" at its request and interest. I have reached eighty years this summer on July 28th, 1972.

I was approached and questioned concerning George and Gabriel Gillis. My husband and I brought up the two orphans until they were capable on their own. Charlotte, the mother passed away while the boys were merely children.

George and Gabriel, then, entered the orphanage at Fort Albany, under the supervision of orderly nuns. George, the oldest, resided two years at the orphanage and Gabriel stayed for four years. Due to George's poor health, Father Superior approached me and asked if I could care for George - I agreed. George was five years old. After his release from the orphanage, he never returned nor did he receive any formal education. George was independent at the age of twenty.

My husband, Tommy John George and myself were the sole guardians to George. Soon my husband died at the age of sixty-five.

George and Gabriel Gillis grew up under our guidance and teachings. The government never requested to offer assistance, nor any welfare.

I was given hand outs from the mission. We left the community, along with a family to survive in the bush. George was fifteen and the younger brother was thirteen.



Mr. and Mrs. Torquil Gillis were married by Father Gagnon at Attawapiskat. Not long after their marriage, they moved to Fort Albany, Torquil seeking for employment. Soon after their relocation, Charlotte Gillis passed away.

George Gillis was born at Attawapiskat. He is forty-five years old this summer. His family consists of nine children, two died at infancy. Gabriel Gillis is forty-two, bachelor and living at Calstock, Ontario. It is my request that there be an attempt to recognize and consider George Gillis as native and part of the people living in this community. I especially request that George be recognized and considered as my own child and that my request be fulfilled, hopefully before my death.

Mary John George  
Fort Albany  
May the good Lord grant  
us his blessings.



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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

WINISK BAND

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
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THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

WINISK BAND

PRESENTED AT

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

WINISK BAND



Royal Commission on the  
Northern Environment  
This exhibit is produced by

Winisk Band

this 2 day of Sep 1978  
Squire

Mr. Commissioner:

On behalf of the people of the Winisk band, I wish to make the following presentation, as their elected representative.

1. FORESTY AND PAPER MILL OPERATION

We have been told by people who have already experienced having a paper mill in their area, that it is not a good thing. We are very concerned because such an operation would threaten our rivers. The chemicals involved in the paper-making process will pollute the rivers, no matter how careful they are. Both the animals and even the human beings who drink the water and eat the fish will be in danger. We also know tht it will be impossible to restore the forests. The headwaters of the five rivers that flow into James Bay and Hudson Bay are in the very same spot that they want to build this mill. If this paper mill is built, it will affect everyone living in Northern Ontario, even those that are hundreds of miles away.

2. LIGNITE MINE PROPOSAL

We know that the same danger of pollution and destruction exist. Therefore, the same careful consideration should be practiced before the actual project starts.



3. GAS PIPELINE

On the surface, this proposed project may seem less dangerous, but any project must be planned carefully. Special consideration must be taken of the environment, which is very delicate.

4. BUILDING DAMS ON THE FIVE MAJOR RIVERS FLOWING INTO HUDSON BAY AND JAMES BAY, AND THE PROPOSAL TO DIVERT THESE WATERS

We have been told that Ontario Hydro has been making plans to build a series of dams on each of these five rivers - Moose River, Albany River, Attawapiskat River, Winisk River and the Severn River. Do they realize that there is a community at the mouth of each of these rivers? The people living in these communities depend on the rivers for their drinking water, as well as for their food supply (fish, beaver, otter, ducks, geese). All of these will be in great danger if the dams are built.

A beaver builds a dam for its winter home, to protect and store his food supply. He too alters the environment - fish, water and trees are affected. But his dam is flexible. It is part of nature, and sensitive to it.

However, the concrete of the white man's dam is not flexible. It is not sensitive to the balance of nature. Every living thing will suffer if a dam is built.



5. POLAR BEAR PROVINCIAL PARK

In the beginning the formation of this park sounded like a good idea. We were in agreement to the original plans as they were suggested. However, since that time, the original plans have been altered many times.

During the years 1954 to 1958, when Mike Gull Sr. was chief, he had expressed our concern to the Department of Lands and Forests. At that time there was a Radar Base in Winisk, and the white men that were stationed there were disturbing the wild geese of the area. The people were depending on the geese for their food supply for the winter.

Eventually, the Department of Lands and Forests suggested that a Sanctuary be established to protect the geese. However, this would also prevent the Indians from hunting within the area.

In late 1958, the Department of Lands and Forests brought forth the idea of forming a Provincial Park. The area under consideration was Cape Henrietta-Maria, a peninsula east of the Winisk River. After some time, the size and area of the proposed park was altered. The Chief of Winisk did not agree to the new plans. In 1968, the Ministry of Natural Resources again brought up the idea of establishing Polar Bear Provincial Park. This time they had drafted up 18 guidelines. These guidelines were written in such a way that seemed acceptable to the Native People. They were assured that their traditional lifestyle would not be interrupted by the establishment of Polar Bear Provincial Park.





However, we question whether this will be the case? Many of our people still depend on the land for their survival. We are living off of the same land that provided for our forefathers. Some of this land lies within the boundaries of the Park. We do not want to be deprived of the animals and fish and trees that have been handed down to us by our grandfathers. These things are very precious to us.

We feel that, once again, we have not been dealt with fairly:

- there was no real meaningful consultation with Band in regards to the establishment of the Provincial Park;
- there was never any mention of the changing of the boundary lines;
- there should have been a lawyer provided for the Bands involved, to insure that the Native People's needs were rightfully represented.

We want to make sure that, from this point on, the well-being of the People of the area will be taken into consideration. Our guidelines for the Polar Bear Provincial Park must be clearly understood and accepted by the People, before they are passed in the legislature.

#### 6. THE TREATY

This land that we live on has been passed on from generation to generation. Our grandfathers taught us how to use the land properly and how to care for it. We have taken care of it, and, in return, it has provided us with clean water to drink and good food to eat. We too, will teach our children how to care for the land, so that it will be able to provide for the coming generations.



When the white man arrived in our country, they asked our forefathers to share their land with them. Our forefathers agreed in good faith. As a sign of a good faith, they signed Treaty #9.

Part of the treaty said " ... as long as the sun shines, and the water flows and the grass grows...".

But now, they are talking about daming the rivers - stopping the natural flow of the river. This certainly will affect the life around the rivers - upsetting the natural growth of nature.

Is this not breaking the Treaty?

I wonder how our grandfathers understood the promises that the commissioners were making at the time that the Treaty was signed in 1905, and in 1929-30, when the adhesions were made. At times, we think our forefathers did not fully comprehend what was meant by the treaty, especially from the government's point of view.

At present, the area we live in is considered 'unorganized territory'. However, as development approaches, much of our land is being surveyed. It won't be long, I'm sure, before we are considered as 'organized territory'. I worry about the rules and regulations of the Provincial Government that will be imposed on our people, and how they will affect their way of life. How much longer will we have our freedom? ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ We are not equipped with the necessary skills to cope with its demands. And, at the same time, we don't want to lose our culture that we have been ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ for so many years.  
*practising*



7. GENERAL THOUGHTS ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE NORTH

If all of the projects, that have been proposed for the North, ~~to~~ go ahead, I'm sure they will destroy everything around us - the forests, the rivers, the animals, the birds - everything that has been given to us by the Great Spirit. Why should these things be destroyed?

I'll give you one example. In 1955, the Federal Government of Canada decided to build a Radar Base in Winisk. It was called 'Mid-Canada Line'. It happened that the area they chose was the same place that my father had raised us and had used for many years, and his father before that. This was a very special spot for us; there were all kinds of berries - blueberries, cranberries, strawberries and gooseberries. There was also a burial ground in this area. The bulldozers came in and destroyed everything. Our winter lodge was demolished. Everything was destroyed, so that the Radar Base could be built. After 10 years, the government decided to close the base. All of the white men went home, but they left so much destruction behind them. Their buildings still stand - useless to us. Their equipment sits there, rusted and broken.

Why didn't the government offer to use that equipment for the benefit of our community. Now, when it's too late and the equipment is useless, the Department of Indian Affairs is talking about new developments, and bringing in new equipment. This is just another example of how the white man has moved in, for the sake of development, without giving any consideration to the Native People who have lived there all of their lives.



The Hudson Bay Company is another example of how the white man came into our community - and took advantage of us. As soon as they could see there was no more profit to be made, they left. It didn't bother them to know that they would be leaving us without any place to buy our necessities. They did not make any effort to help us establish our own store.

What guarantee do we have that this will not happen again? We will get the same treatment by these private companies that want to come in and strip us of our resources.

These things we know for sure:

- developments are always for the benefit of the dominant society living in the South, at the expense of the Native People.
- any benefits that do come to the Native People are only short-term;
- the resources, whether it be trees or minerals, are taken from the North for the South;
- the majority of jobs created are filled by skilled labourers from the South;
- the top priority for the investing company is quick profit, with little or no consideration given to how the community will be affected;
- the people are seldom included in the planning stages;
- the people cannot ever be compensated for the loss of trees and wildlife - a cash settlement will be of not value to our grandchildren.

*If you want to know <sup>whether</sup> ~~about~~ the way we live now <sup>what the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Indian way of life</sup> is  
~~I am asking you to~~ come to my home and eat ~~with~~  
~~me~~ share a meal with I thank you very  
much for this opportunity.*





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SUBMISSION TO  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

MINISTRY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

AND

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTED AT

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO

ON

FEBRUARY 2, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE  
E. P. HARTT  
COMMISSIONER



SUBMISSION TO  
  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON  
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

MINISTRY of INDIAN AFFAIRS  
and  
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

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February 2, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON THE NORTHERN  
ENVIRONMENT  
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

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Speaking Notes for Minister's Presentation to Hartt Commission  
Preliminary Hearings - Moose Factory, February 2, 1978

Mr. Commissioner, may I begin by expressing my appreciation at the opportunity to appear before this Royal Commission today - during its first round of public hearings. I share with many who have already appeared before you the sense of importance which marks the process of hearings you and your colleagues are holding into the future of Ontario's north. The Government of Ontario, in establishing the Commission and investing it with broad terms of reference, has clearly and perceptively responded to the growing desire of the citizens of the Province to have their views heard and considered in the planning and decision-making processes, which so closely affect them today and will affect their children in the future. In appointing you to head this Commission, the Government of Ontario has shown its commitment to the reality as well as the rhetoric of public participation. I believe that your record as a jurist and the strong sense of social equity you have always displayed, have already inspired the confidence of the Indian people in Ontario in the future course of these hearings.

This is obviously only the first step of what will be a long journey. It is occurring at a time of significant change and development in the relationships between governments and the Indian people. Some major policy activities and initiatives



are now underway, including in particular joint processes for consultation about major issues, involving the Federal Government and the Indian people. Key subjects such as Indian Act revision, socio-economic development, hunting, fishing and trapping rights are under discussion in the various committees and working groups, operating under the guidance of the NIB - Cabinet Committee. Equally important in Ontario, is the prospect of the tripartite discussions on the delivery of services to Indian people, involving representatives of the Federal and Provincial Governments and of the Indian Associations of Ontario. Such tripartite discussions are taking place elsewhere in the country and I am hopeful they can be developed effectively in Ontario. It is inevitable and essential that the Indian people, both as Indians with a recognized special status and as citizens of Canada, should be directly involved in consultations with both the Federal and Provincial authorities.

It is in the context of these tripartite discussions that I wish to refer to the statement made to this Commission by the Honourable Rene Brunelle at Timmins on December 21, 1977. Mr. Brunelle stated in the early part of his remarks that the Federal Government appeared to be gradually withdrawing from responsibility for registered Indians, in furtherance of a policy proposed in the Federal Government's Indian policy



statement of 1969. It is well known that this line of policy at the time of its announcement was rejected firmly by the majority of Indian leaders in this country. It seems not so well known but nonetheless fact that in recognition of this Indian reaction, the Federal Government has not pursued the policy proposed in 1969, and is not pursuing it now.

My predecessors in office have made this abundantly clear in public statements, in correspondence with Indian leaders, in private consultations with them and in activities pursued by the Department. Mr. Buchanan spoke in this sense when he addressed the Ontario All-Chiefs' Conference in Toronto on August 10, 1976. Mr. Allmand was even more explicit when he spoke to the All-Chiefs' Conference at Edmonton on February 24, 1977 about the Federal Government's responsibility in relation to the Indian people. I am going to restate the position now because it should be part of the record of this Commission.

The Federal responsibility for Indians and their lands dates from the first contacts and communication between the Crown and the aboriginal inhabitants of this country. It is enshrined in the British North America Act of 1867, which gives the Federal Parliament the necessary legislative jurisdiction to carry out that responsibility. It is signified by the special rights accorded to Indian people, through





their treaties, the Indian Act and other legislation. This responsibility and the consequent relationship between the Indian people and the Federal Crown is one that the Government of Canada fully accepts, it seeks to strengthen through joint working arrangements, it wishes to continue in ways and means chosen by the Indian people themselves. The present Indian policy is one of continuation, not termination. It is one of safeguarding Indian status and identity and not assimilation. It is based on jointly agreed objectives and methods.

The emphasis on joint processes and joint working arrangements is basic to the present policy we are following. At a time of change and development, such processes become important in themselves. To be effective, they must be marked by frankness, flexibility and a willingness to innovate, on the part of all the parties concerned.

It would be quite inconsistent with current approach to the Government-Indian relationship, for me as the Minister responsible in the Federal Government to come before you today with a rigid catalogue of how the Government's responsibilities are to be carried out, of what are the roles and functions of Government, of what precisely are its objectives, priorities and plans for the Indian people of Ontario. Instead I shall give you a broad outline of the Federal Government's current perceptions of how its responsibilities and relationship with the Indian people should evolve.



At the same time, I am tabling, for the Commission's information, a resume of the Department's current activities in Ontario. At this Inquiry proceeds I may have occasion, depending on future circumstances and the desires of this Commission, to appear before you again at later stages.

I have spoken about the continuation of Indian identity within Canadian society. The Indian people and their leaders are understandably much concerned about this aspiration and need.

The people of Treaty #9, in their recent declaration Nish-nawbe-Aski have stated that there must be an openness in looking for new and innovative directions in the area of Indian government. The Government of Canada regards the area of Indian government at band level as the keystone of a distinct and viable Indian identity within Canadian society. The recent signing of a comprehensive general development agreement with Treaty #3 translates into practice the institutional changes which can only lead to self-government. I look forward to working out a final local government approach with the Treaty #9 Association of Chiefs as well. As well, on more general grounds, we see this as a distinct and continuing Indian identity as involving the following elements or dimensions:



- It implies group continuity which rests on firm foundations of full Canadian citizenship, including treaty rights and a revised and updated Indian Act
- It recognizes that political change in the positions of Indian people must be worked out by the Indian people at band level; through support by levels of government; in ongoing tripartite arrangements, for example, at provincial level; and at national level through special consultative processes like the NIB-Cabinet Committee.
- It acknowledges that the personal fulfilment of Indian people calls for the safeguarding of Indian languages and other cultural values, for permitting traditional pursuits of hunting and fishing, and for providing special assistance and facilities especially in the fields of education and training
- It presupposes the attainment of greater self-determination through the provision of special services to Indian people, and freedom of choice as regards economic opportunity and employment
- It includes environmental concerns which imply that the Federal Government and provincial governments should seek to ensure the environmental protection of Indian lands and the involvement of Indian groups in resources development, environmental protection and conservation planning
- It requires, perhaps above all, a solid economic base on which to build the viability of Indian communities, through programs of economic development, special counselling and training for Indian people.



Essentially, Mr. Commissioner, the foregoing is a general statement of objectives. Progressively, it must be translated into concrete action. This is the challenging part. It is the challenge which we must face jointly with the Indian people and one which, I suggest, parallels the fundamental purpose of your own enquiry. It represents in my view a recognition by the Provincial authorities that the future economic and social evolution of Northern Ontario is a future in which the Indian people living there have a direct interest, an acknowledged role and a solid stake.

You are, no doubt, aware Mr. Commissioner of the ongoing debate which engages constitutional experts and legal scholars, politicians and bureaucrats, about division of legislative powers in this country between Federal and Provincial legislatures. In significant ways the Indian people are often victims of these jurisdictional disputes, particularly as regards responsibility for government services. They have suffered in terms of no services at all in some instances and, in others, in terms of services of a quantity and quality inferior to those available to other citizens of Canada. The Province of Ontario is showing an increasing awareness that the needs of Indian citizens in the Province do involve responsive involvement of provincial authorities. It is encouraging that the Provincial Government has established a Provincial Steering Committee, a provincial level forum





similar to our Joint NIB-Cabinet Committee process. The uncertainties, which have surrounded the questions of roles and responsibilities have to be resolved if we are to achieve satisfactory and strong partnership relationships between governments and the Indian people of the Province. It is for this reason that the tripartite talks in the province on this key question of roles and responsibilities are so important as mechanisms for the future.

In summary, Mr. Commissioner, some of the main features of a situation with which we are both concerned appear to me to be as follows:

- There is a strong commitment of Indian people and the Federal Government to the continuation, the strengthening and the support of a separate Indian identity within the larger Canadian society
- We are in a period of evolution and rapid change. To cope with the rapidity of this change and the breadth of issues which confront us, the emphasis of our efforts must be as much on the process as on the product - on the way we do things as on what we do
- The areas of local powers and institutions are emerging as possibly the priority area for joint process of exploration and innovation involving the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and the Indian people.



You have already heard, in your preliminary hearings, Mr. Commissioner, the expressed desires of people in the northern areas of Ontario for more local control and more involvement in the planning and decision-making processes affecting them. The Indian people are calling likewise for strong forms of Indian local government in the context of Canadian society. To be effective this growing role for Indians in the management of their own affairs requires a solid legislative foundation, adequate resources and qualified expertise. The Federal Government fully supports this fundamental objective and seeks to find effective ways for achieving it in all parts of the country. We are making this a priority question in our approach to revising the Indian Act.

As well, we support the contention of the Indian people of Ontario that the solution to development problems in Northern Ontario lies in close consultation between them and the governments concerned. We will play our full part in any working arrangements of a tripartite nature.

At a time when Indian and non-Indian people alike are calling for increased control over their own affairs, major factors including the exigencies of contemporary economics, the growth of populations and the increasing need for rational, planned use of finite natural resources, are pushing governments in the direction of adopting policies broad in scope and centralized mechanisms for decision-



making. Clearly this raises a contradiction that must be reconciled. At the same time, the kind of pluralistic society we have nurtured in Canada calls for planned diversity in our approaches, methods and institutions.

I see these as key questions that the Indian people in Canada today are insisting must be answered, and with answers that they have helped to work out. They are seeking such answers before this enquiry and in their broader consultations with government at Federal and Provincial levels. We all actively share in the responsibility for seeing that our responses are fair minded, frank and farsighted. We continue to fully discuss the 1924 Land Agreement with Indian people to move towards full resolution. I am now discussing with Cabinet colleagues ways of enjoining the issues at stake in the Migratory Birds Convention.

I hope I have said enough in this preliminary statement to demonstrate my interest in the success of your enquiry. I shall be glad to appear later, if you think this desirable. Please be assured of our ongoing support and feel free to call on me or officials of my Department for any assistance you think we can provide.



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## INTRODUCTION

Commissioner:

The Indian people of Ontario, more than 63,000, represent about 25% of Canada's Indian population.

For all Bands in Ontario my Department will spend \$86,861,100 this fiscal year - This encompasses social assistance, education, employment programs, economic development and other activities.

My Regional office for Ontario has a staff of 169 who provide advisory support to an additional 327 employees in the four Districts which will fall within the area being considered by your Commission.

My Department acts on behalf of 26 Bands representing 12,713 Indians on Reserves or Provincial Crown Land within the area set out for consideration by your Commission. I would like to present a brief resume of our responsibilities in the Indian Eskimo Affairs Program as it relates to the Hearing.



INDIAN IDENTITY

The Government - Indian relationship based on Indian Identity within Canadian society comprises six basic elements. The six elements include group continuity, political change, personal fulfillment, social equity, environmental concerns and economic strength.

Group Continuity is concerned with such things as treaty rights, full citizenship, special privileges and reserve lands; political change deals with a revised Indian Act, enlarged band powers, representation in advisory bodies; personal fulfillment takes into consideration safeguards for Indian languages and other cultural values, hunting and fishing safeguards and special assistance for education and training; social equity revolves around social services on and off reserves, federally assisted education and preference in employment; environmental concerns deal with environmental protection for Indian lands, involvement in environmental protection and planning and employment for Indians in national parks, tourism and game control. Economic strength takes into account tax privileges for reserve lands, economic development assistance and special counselling and training.

In Ontario a new relationship has manifested itself in the Ontario Region Liaison Council - a council of Association presidents, elders and respected Indian advisors. This Council has developed through a series of retreats and considerable dialogue, a Directional Plan for the Ontario Region of the Department, which when combined with an operational plan will set the direction for the Department in Ontario. These developments are unique in Canada. The actions of this Department are based on the needs, wishes and aspirations of the Indian people of Ontario. This process provides an excellent base for the proposed tripartite dialogue.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Major advances have been taking place in the area of Local Government and Education. In Local Government the thrust is toward control by the local Band Councils. Preliminary steps require identification of needs followed by intensive action in the field of training, corresponding changes in government policy to allow delegation of authority for decision making and budget allocation in local Band Councils. The aim is to allow local control of Band affairs and issues. In Education, similar changes are taking place. Local control of education, meaning Indian control of education is not merely a fanciful slogan. Indian Band Councils are establishing local school committees to review curricula and Indian language and culture are appearing in the school courses. In areas where Indian children go to off-reserve schools, members of the Board of Education are often Indian.

The actions presented above are largely being fostered and aided by federal departments. There is much more that needs to be done with the assistance of provincial ministries. The development process is one of local self-government, a re-establishment of strong leadership at the Band level to enable Band councils to govern their social, cultural and economic affairs. What is required, therefore, at a tripartite discussion level, is agreement to allow provincial expertise to be directed to the Band Councils and a simultaneous recognition of Band Councils as legal entities capable of decision making, budgetary control and self-government.



Though the Indian people are the largest population group in the area, they are not generally represented on the groups involved in the planning process for Northern Ontario. They do not have an effective voice in the development of the natural resources that may provide an economic future for the region nor do they derive significant benefit from resource development. Indians applying for employment in new development frequently find themselves barred from these jobs due to lack of required skills and training.

There are many examples in Southern Ontario of Indian people and Indian communities that have developed prosperous economic ventures, and of Indian people who have reached top positions in Canadian industry and other areas of society. This has been achieved in a free environment, less subject to government control, and with greater interaction between the Indian people and other Canadians. For the developing regions, and especially for the Indian people in Northern Ontario, the Federal government suggests that changes are necessary if we are to create a better society.

A long term perspective is needed. No meaningful change can be achieved in a month or a year. If people are to plan their lives and their communities for the future, they need be able to plan five, ten or twenty years ahead.





## Treaty Rights

The Northern Treaties surrendered to the Crown all the lands of Northern Ontario comprising the watersheds flowing northwards to James and Hudson Bays. They were considered by the Indian people to be contracts between them and the Dominion, notwithstanding that the Province of Ontario was a party to Treaty No. 9 and its Adhesions, and that the rights enshrined in the Treaties should not be superceded by Provincial legislation.

Under the Treaties the Indian people were guaranteed the right to pursue their traditional avocations of hunting and fishing throughout the surrendered lands. Additionally, Treaty No. 9 provided for the right of trapping. Though the Treaties applied these rights to all areas not taken up for settlement, mining, lumbering, trading and other purposes, it has conveniently been interpreted to include timber berths, wilderness areas, forest and game preserves, and Provincial and National parks. The Indian people consider that these Treaty rights based on their need for food or for family support have been repeatedly abrogated.

I must point out that the Indian people have surrendered in excess of 175,000,000 acres of their ancestral hunting grounds from time immemorial in exchange for reserves presently comprising less than 1,000,000 acres or approximately one-half of one per cent of the total area.

Information pertaining to these Treaties is set out in Appendix "A".



The Supreme Court of Canada has held that the Migratory Birds Convention Act (an international treaty) overrides the earlier Treaties made with the Indian people. This is evidenced in a Supreme Court decision - Regina vs Daniels 1968 where in it was held that an Indian was not exempted from compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Provincial fishing regulations emanate from the Federal Fisheries Act and the Province takes the view that they apply to Indian people as well.

The Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources is proposing setting commercial fishing quotas on lakes. This is being considered for Shoal Lake of Lake of the Woods which will directly affect the economic base of two Indian Bands which are dependent on commercial fishing for their livelihood.

The harvesting of wild rice has long been considered an historic right of the Indian people. They developed this as a commercial enterprise and for the past ten years have had more or less exclusive rights to wild rice harvesting. The Province is presently considering granting licences to non-Indians for this purpose. At present the success of the wild rice crop is dependent on control of water levels and can be ruined if the water level is too high. Consideration is now being given to the construction of water controls which will protect the crops.



## RESERVES: THE TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY

The Department has a trustee responsibility to status Indians and for the administration of Indian lands. It no longer decides arbitrarily how the lands are to be administered but acts in response to the wishes and needs of the Indian people by working in partnership with the Band Councils providing resource people to assist them in their undertakings.

In the past, the Government was concerned with undertaking treaties with the Indians for the surrender of vast tracts of land to enable them to be opened for settlement and development. Reserves were provided on the basis of the population of the day and selected at locations then settled by the people. Since the time of these Treaties the Indian way of life has been changed by external environments.

Our present role is to provide for the needs of the community and the establishment of an economic base. Many reserves do not have sufficient land to meet housing and environmental requirements. Our Planners must identify suitable land which will meet the requirements of both the present and future generations and provide commercial opportunities to enable the people to maintain their livelihood.

The northern Indians were traditionally a nomadic society whose livelihood was based on hunting and fishing. They were suddenly confronted by the imposition through the Treaties of a reserve system based on European land tenure concepts which confined their lands to specific areas providing the very antithesis to their previous way of life.

Due to increasing population, religious and social differences there have been movements of Indian families to new locations. These people feel that the Indians surrendered vast tracts of land receiving little in return and that they are entitled to sufficient lands to provide for their future needs.



The Department has been negotiating with the Province for provision of sufficient lands to meet the socio-economic needs of outlying Indian settlements. A number of these settlements were provided for under a Provincial commitment made in 1969. However, there are several additional settlements for which no provision of lands has been made. The Province has stated that it will provide land on the basis of acre for acre land exchange but there has been an understandable reluctance by Bands to agree to the relinquishment of reserve lands for exchange purposes. The only remaining alternative is the purchase of Provincial Crown land at market value.

Present Provincial policy requires that the Department submit detailed socio-economic criteria to justify every single acre of land requested to enable the establishment of reserves for these Indian settlements on Provincial Crown Land despite the fact that these lands were originally surrendered by their ancestors.

The British North America Act gave Canada exclusive responsibility for Indians and lands for Indians but a Supreme Court of Canada decision held that the beneficial interest in lands surrendered under Treaty No. 3 passed to Ontario. Since this gives the Province exclusive jurisdiction over surrendered lands free of any Indian interest, Federal sales of surrendered Indian lands would be ultra vires. To overcome this problem, the Governments of Ontario and Canada drew up an Agreement in 1924 which enacted by respective legislation was to give Canada management and control of all Indian Reserves and surrendered Reserve lands in Ontario. Following a recent Justice interpretation that this legislation was only effective subsequent to the Agreement, tripartite negotiations between the two Governments and the Indian Associations have been underway to amend the Agreement to overcome its deficiencies and obtain the most advantageous conditions.





Following the surrender of the tract of lands under Treaty No. 3 in 1873 and the settlement of the Ontario-Manitoba boundary dispute in 1889, an Agreement was reached between Canada and Ontario and subsequent legislation passed in 1894 entitled "An Act for the settlement of questions between the Governments of Canada and Ontario respecting Indian lands". Paragraph 4 set out: "That in case of all Indian Reserves so to be confirmed or hereafter selected, the waters within the lands laid out or to be laid out as Indian reserves in the said territory, including the land covered with water lying between the projecting headlands of any lake or sheets of water, not wholly surrendered by an Indian reserve or reserves, shall be deemed to form part of such reserve, including islands wholly within such headlands, and shall not be subject to the public common rights of fishery by others than Indians of the band to which the reserve belongs".

In 1915 when the Provincial Government enacted legislation to transfer to Canada the reserves selected in accordance with the provisions of Treaty No. 3, it revoked paragraph 4 of the 1894 Agreement stating that the lands referred to therein would continue to be the property of the Province. It was thought at the time that it would be most difficult to implement this clause and that resurveys would be required which would cause considerable delay. The Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs decided that nothing would be said about water or fisheries and that these questions could be decided as the cases arose by existing law useage.

In 1967 the question of headland to headland boundaries was reintroduced. It was proposed that appropriate plans be prepared to indicate the suggested boundaries and that these would be submitted to the Province for consideration. This procedure was initiated for a number of reserves but was not completed. The research section of Grand Council Treaty No. 3 in conjunction with the concerned Bands is currently completing this project and propose to enter into preliminary negotiations with the Province in the near future.

A policy of tripartite negotiations has been recently implemented with representation of the Federal and Provincial Governments and the Indian Associations which it is hoped will solve these long outstanding issues.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A total of 31 Indian Communities are located north of the 50th parallel and are serviced by an Economic Development field staff of nine.

Since the majority of these communities are accessible only by air, their isolation from large urban centres restricts the options for economic activity. Potential enterprises relate to natural resource development in forestry, commercial fishing, trapping and tourist outfitting; and small service businesses such as general stores, coffee shops and taxi operations. Owing to a limited Departmental budget every effort is made to utilize programs offered by other government agencies such as Natural Resources, ARDA, DREE, CEIC Job Creation Branch, Canada Manpower and Community and Social Services.

In 1972 the Ontario Co-Operative Development Association initiated a business Management advisory services to provide management advice and assistance to Indian owned and operated co-operative businesses presently totalling 27. (See Appendix "B")

Since the possibilities for economic activity are limited, the challenge facing developers is to devise ways and means to utilize available resources to the utmost, so that the communities may become as fully self-sufficient as circumstances permit. Emphasis is currently being placed on moving beyond the project-by-project type of development through long range socio-economic planning by all parties involved. Greater co-ordination of activities is the goal, to avoid duplication of effort and, more importantly, to avoid coincident activities which actually operate at cross purposes.

The greatest opportunities for significant employment exist in the natural resource based enterprises primarily commercial fishing and trapping. Considerable progress has already been made, including the initiation of the development of a Sectoral Program for the Northwestern Ontario Fisheries (the first such development in Ontario). Additional progress should result from the encouragement being given to Band planning and Band development of community employment strategies (some funding for self-development of Indian Communities to identify needs, problems and



Economic Development (Cont'd)

opportunities and development and implementation of strategies based on the community's priorities).

The Department will assist this thrust to obtain significant employment by implementing good management practices through co-ordinating available training assistance with identified planning needs, providing additional training assistance not available elsewhere, co-ordinating long-term use of welfare savings with the community's own socio-economic development strategy and co-ordinating short-term projects with the aforementioned long-term plans; assisting Band housing programs where possible by ensuring that housing is given top priority in using short-term projects; assisting Band employment strategies by working closely with other Department programs, CEIC Job Creation Branch, Canada Manpower, BEDC and other organizations.

Education

The Education budget for the Treaty No. 3 and No. 9 area for 1977-78 is in excess of 15,700,000 which provided education programs for 6,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade XIII and approximately 800 Post-Secondary students. There are 33 Federal schools scattered across the area which employ 163 teachers. As late as 1971-72 there were no Band members employed in the education program but in 1976-77, 70 Indian people were employed as teachers, language instructors, social counsellors, classroom assistants and caretakers.

Training and development has been provided to ensure a continuing high standard within the education program. There are graduates from our four year Native Language Instructor's program teaching native languages in our schools; a joint summer school program with the Ministry of



## Education (Cont'd)

Education graduates certified education counsellors of Indian status to provide counselling service to Indian people; D.I.A.N.D. sponsored summer program upgrades our Native classroom assistants annually; a special teacher training program at Hamilton provides for two summer and two year practicum to graduate teachers with an Ontario Standard 2 Certificate - this program is completed and resulted in 85 Status Indian graduates.

There is a continuing transfer of education funds, authority and responsibility to Bands in this Area. General growth has gone from 7% to 25% involvement by Bands in Ontario.

Almost all bands are handling some education programs through accountable contributions to bands.

An Adult education committee has been established in the Sioux Lookout District, an area comprising about one-third of Ontario. The committee consists of members from each band, Treaty Nine, Canada Manpower and Immigration; Department of Indian Affairs and the Community Colleges. Many bands have taken over Continuing Education programs for adults and are administering the programs with success, four bands have taken over Adult programs.

There is a joint working arrangement with the education program in the Treaty No. 9 area. This involves planning, consultation and implementation of programming.

Special developments in cultural enrichment programs feature a syllabic typing program using typewriters with a keyboard developed jointly with a supplier and publication of native language dictionaries and books. The Native language is presently being used for instruction in Kindergarten and Grade 1 and is being developed for Grades 2 to 4 level.





Local Government

A total of 23 Indian Bands located north of the 50th parallel are serviced by a Local Government Field Staff of 12 in four Districts. Besides the main Reserve communities, there are 8 Indian Settlements occupied by members of some of the above Bands, either on Federal or Provincial Crown Land that receive some or all of the Local Government services.

Departmental D & M Programs provided in this area are shown in Appendix "C".

Of these, programs in the amount of \$2,937,000 are administered directly by the Bands.

While a few of these Bands have been managing programs for a number of years, some have only recently taken on this type of responsibility. Local Government Field Staff work closely with these Bands, assisting the Councils in obtaining training for their people so that they can expand their programs at a rate consistent with growing capability.

Appendix "D" of Local Government Capital Expenditures demonstrates that for the area chosen (this table covers the total Treaty #3 and Treaty #9 area) the Bands are already administering 52% of the total program. Housing is an important consideration in this area. You will note that over half of the expenditure goes into housing, a good deal of which is administered directly by the Band Councils with some extra funds being obtained from such programs as Canada Works.



## CONCLUSION

The Government of Canada, the Indian Associations and the Indian people of Ontario are committed to a policy of increasing local responsibility through local government and self-sufficiency through economic development maintained within the framework of Cultural Pride. These goals must involve the Indian people, the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government. The Indian people are citizens of the province and as such have basic human rights and privileges accorded to other citizens. By 1985, forty per cent (28,500) of Ontario's Indian people will be living off-reserve in the cities and towns of the province. They will be young; sixty three percent under the age of thirty and will need both educational and economic opportunities. But whether on or off reserve, these Indian people will require the attention of both levels of government working in full partnership with the Indian people.



# APPENDIX "A"

	<u>Treaty No. 3</u>	<u>Treaty 9</u>	<u>Treaty 9 Adhesions</u>
	1873	1905-1906	1929-1930
lands	33	15	6
lands 1977	24	15	13
reserves	65	16	8
reserves 1977	58	16	19
area Surrendered (acres)	35,200,000	57,600,000	82,124,800
area Treaty Reserves (acres)	330,590	347,236	211,968
area Reserves- 1977 (acres)	308,770	347,236	334,364
area Treaty Population	2,600(1873)	3,116(1905-06)	1,934(1929-30)
area Reserve Population	3,974(1974)	4,161(1975)	4,514(1975)
Total Population	6,508(1974)	7,495(1975)	5,975(1975)



## APPENDIX "B"

There are presently a total of 124 Indian businesses as follows:

Air Service	2
Arts and Crafts	13
Bakery	1
Building Contractor	2
Campgrounds	1
Canoe Manufacture	1
Coffee Shops	9
Commercial Fishing	16
Community Recreation	3
Fur Handling	14
Garage and Motor Repairs	5
Hunting and Fishing Camps	14
Motels	2
Retail Stores	16
Sawmills	13
Transportation	10
Warehousing	1
Wild Rice Harvesting	1
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## APPENDIX "C"

Administration - Local Government	\$ 58,700
Social Assistance	3,801,600
Band Management	1,372,700
Community Improvement	230,400
In-School	9,124,900
Employment	263,800
Student Residence	824,100
Administration	734,400
EPS	227,800
Planning	40,600
Economic Development	317,500
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TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	17,542,400



APPENDIX "D"

BAND	HOUSING	ROADS	SANITATION	ELECTRICITY	WATER & SEWERAGE	COMMUNITY FACILITIES	LEARN	PROTECTION	TOTAL	BY BAND
Eagle Lake	20,000	-	8,000	-	-	12,000	-	-	40,000	40,000
Grassy Narrows	283,200	-	125,600	-	-	23,000	-	-	431,800	289,564
Islington	158,400	-	414,400	-	-	-	-	4,000	576,800	542,300
Northwest Angle 33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northwest Angle 37	10,000	-	-	-	-	14,600	-	1,500	26,100	16,100
Rat Portage & Dalles	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Shoal Lake 39	70,000	9,000	537,200	-	-	125,100	3,500	21,400	766,200	296,060
Shoal Lake 40	30,000	20,000	17,000	-	-	-	-	5,000	72,000	72,000
Wabauskang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wabigoon	20,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,800	20,800
Whitefish Bay	128,000	3,600	88,900	-	-	15,000	3,500	-	239,000	163,700
Big Grassy	36,000	-	20,800	-	-	-	1,500	11,000	69,300	69,300
Big Island	24,000	-	9,000	-	-	14,300	-	-	47,300	47,300
Couchiching	35,000	3,000	41,900	-	-	60,000	-	-	139,900	118,000
Lac La Croix	144,600	-	-	-	-	22,000	650	-	167,250	145,250
Naicatchewenin	15,500	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,500	30,500
Nickkousemenecaning	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Rainy River	42,500	8,200	11,600	-	-	-	1,000	-	63,300	63,300
Sabaskong	38,500	-	200,000	-	-	155,000	9,000	-	402,500	391,450
Seine River	25,000	7,300	26,000	-	-	-	1,000	49,000	108,300	108,300
Stangecoming	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunswick House	-	2,300	17,000	-	-	-	-	-	19,300	-
Matachewan	-	35,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	55,000	-
Mattagami	32,000	20,000	14,900	-	-	-	1,500	-	68,400	13,500
Flying Post	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chapleau Ojibway	20,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	27,000	14,000
Missinabie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long Lake 77	24,000	-	16,000	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	24,000



BAND	HOUSING	WATER & SANITATION		ELECTRIFICATION	PLANNING		FIRE PROTECTION	TOTAL	ADMINISTERED BY BAND
		ROADS	SANITATION		COMMUNITIES	FACILITIES			
Constance Lake	88,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	108,000	108,000
Abitibi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martin Falls	23,000	6,100	10,000	25,000	15,900	-	6,700	86,700	40,000
Fort Hope	244,000	8,000	205,000	10,000	29,000	5,936	13,400	515,336	78,000
New Post	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moose Factory	44,000	18,400	5,000	-	-	-	-	67,400	18,400
Albany	277,600	33,000	60,000	-	10,200	-	-	380,800	23,100
Winisk	108,700	12,000	26,000	-	21,200	-	-	168,500	-
Pikangikum	265,200	5,500	-	-	8,500	-	-	279,200	107,400
Attawapiskat	108,000	43,500	30,000	-	-	-	8,200	189,700	104,000
Osnaburgh	50,000	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	52,000	52,000
Deer Lake	365,800	34,000	-	-	18,000	-	-	417,800	159,708
Caribou Lake	98,000	-	-	-	65,000	-	-	163,000	67,160
Trout Lake	162,000	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	192,000	95,000
Kingfisher Lake	62,000	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	72,000	24,000
Bearskin Lake	84,000	-	5,000	-	29,500	-	-	118,500	70,700
Sachigo Lake	75,200	2,000	-	-	44,000	-	-	121,200	60,400
Kasabonika Lake	103,000	-	-	-	23,000	-	-	126,000	52,304
Wunnimun Lake	56,000	5,000	33,300	-	19,000	-	-	113,300	62,638
Angling Lake	62,500	2,500	-	-	7,000	-	-	72,000	19,580
Muskrat Dam	39,300	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	64,300	43,000
Cat Lake	79,800	6,000	-	-	4,200	-	-	90,000	50,000
Fort Severn	47,000	6,000	162,000	24,000	6,000	-	-	245,000	30,000
Lac Seul	62,300	-	85,000	-	33,700	-	-	181,000	63,500
TOTALS	3,677,900	355,400	2,176,200	79,000	832,200	28,536	120,200	7,269,486	3,802,814



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